CPA says no to DFS' request to extend concession terms. PAGE 2
NMC grad awarded 2023 District Teacher of the Year in San Antonio. PAGE 3

Hafa Adai!

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Ex-DOF chief Atalig faces House summon on BOOST

» Yumul says member's request to also summon former governor Torres is noted

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

House of Representatives' Special Committee on Federal Assistance & Disaster-related Funding chair Rep. Ralph N. Yumul (Ind-Saipan) presides over the committee's meeting yesterday afternoon. The members unanimously agreed to issue a subpoena to compel former Finance secretary David Atalig to testify before the committee that is investigating the previous administration's Building Optimism, Opportunity, and Stability Together Program.

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Members of a House of Representatives' ad-hoc committee unanimously agreed yesterday to summon former Finance secretary David Atalig, as the committee resumes its investigation into the previous administration's Building Optimism, Opportunity, and Stability Together Program.

Members of the Special Committee on

See EX-DOF on Page 4

Drop in gas prices continues

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

The downward trend in fuel prices continues with a local oil company dropping its prices by another 10 cents.

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The downward trend in fuel prices continues, with Mobil Oil Marianas dropping its prices by another 10 cents.

People filling their tanks at any of the Mobil gas stations on Saipan last Wednesday afternoon were delighted to catch Mobil staffers dropping their fuel prices by 10 cents.

Although Shell Marianas usually follows suit with

See DROP on Page 4

Gray: Century Estate is not entitled to intervene in request for receivership

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Former Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC employee Joshua Gray, who has a receivership request in the U.S. District Court for the NMI against IPI, is opposed to IPI creditor Century Estate Investment's motion to intervene in his request.

Century Estate Investment Ltd., a financial institution that lent IPI over $9 million back in 2022, wants to intervene in the receivership that Gray is seeking.

Gray, through attorneys

See GRAY on Page 4

House passes bill to authorize $15M line of credit

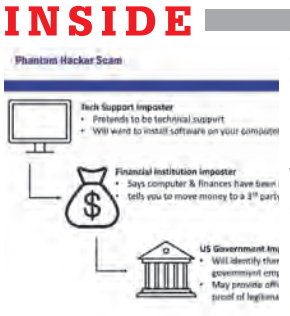
By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House of Representatives unanimously passed yesterday a bill that authorizes the CNMI government to negotiate a revolving line of credit with the Marianas Public Land Trust in the amount of $15 million.

All 20 House members voted "yes" during the session to pass House Bill 23-77. The legislation now goes to the

See HOUSE on Page 4

INSIDE



LOCAL
FBI Honolulu-Guam Resident Agency is warning the public of a new scam dubbed "The Phantom Hacker."
PAGE 14

BUSINESS
Students and faculty at Northern Marianas College in Fina Sisu no longer have to go off-campus to get their meals.
PAGE 15

OFFBEAT
A 104-year-old Chicago woman is hoping to be certified as the oldest person to ever skydive.
PAGE 17

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

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Local

CPA says no to DFS' request to extend concession terms

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority has turned down the request of DFS Saipan Ltd. to extend its airport concession agreement at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport.

After researching the legalities of DFS Saipan's request for a five-year extension of the expired concession agreement it had with CPA as the master concessionaire at the Saipan airport, CPA has determined it will not pursue an extension.

DFS Saipan, however, has, again, written to CPA to ask it to reconsider.

In its request for reconsideration, DFS identified several significant challenges that arose both before and after CPA's decision was made regarding an extension of the concession agreement.

Some of those challenges was Super Typhoon Yutu and COVID-19, which had a severe negative impact on the economy of the CNMI, airport operations, and tourism.

"In light of these successive major challenges and their far-reaching effects, I find it reasonable for CPA to reconsider its previous determination regarding the extension of the airport concession agreement," DFS stated in its letter.

DFS also noted the anticipated exit of some brands toward the end of 2023. In order for DFS to retain and attract similar luxury brands, certain areas of the airport must be improved and DFS said it is interested in making those improvements. However, it would need a concession term of at least five years to justify new investments in the concession space.

DFS representatives went before the CPA board back in August to broach the subject of an arrangement that would allow them to retain the master concession at the airport for at least five more years.

DFS has held the master concession at the Saipan airport for the last 40 years, but their agreement expired in 2018. To date, they remain the master concession on a month-to-month basis.

Because of the uncertainty

See CPA on Page 3

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Group sets fun run with cultural twist

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

It's a fun sprint with a twist as I NÅPU hosts its family-friendly event, the Tattiyi T Nåpu CULTURE: Run-Walk-Push this Oct. 14.

Since the event is meant to honor the CNMI's Commonwealth Cultural Day, participants will be wearing their best traditional garb before starting en route from Micro Beach to the American Memorial Park outdoor amphitheater.

The event will be held from 4pm to 9pm that day. It costs $10 to join and ticket sales have already started and will be available for purchase before the event at The Shack or at Pacific Supply. Upon purchasing a ticket, participants on event day will be eligible to win prizes in categories such as "best time," "best outfit," and "most original," and will also be handed a giveaway and a ticket to enter a separate raffle. There will be prizes, refreshments, information booths, and more. I NÅPU is inviting community members to join this event.

For more information, or to make inquires, email INÅPU.CNMI@gmail.com.

I NÅPU is a nonprofit organization that aims to revive the Chamorro culture through the arts of song, dance, and chant.

CPA

From page 2

of this month-to-month arrangement, DFS claims it can't continue to make an investment.

Because of this, they asked CPA for a short-term arrangement that gives them stability for the next five years to be able to have depreciation on their investment, which it said would also give CPA some time to put together a good request-for-proposals for a new master concessionaire.

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House OKs gov't utility rates transition to commercial rates

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House of Representatives unanimously passed yesterday a bill that would transition governmental utility rates to commercial rates.

All 19 House members present during the session adopted the Public Utilities, Transportation and Communication's committee report that recommends the passage of House Bill 23-59 in the form of House Substitute 1.

The House members then subsequently passed the bill. The legislation now goes to the Senate for action.

Initially, the bill's scope was limited to electricity. The PUTC Committee then decided after much deliberation to broaden the scope to encompass all utilities: water, wastewater, and electricity.

Aldan

Under the legislation, the existing governmental utility rate will be discontinued and replaced with commercial rates.

According to the PUTC report, this change is predicated on concerns that the current rates might not accurately reflect prevailing market conditions, potentially causing undue financial burdens on the CNMI government.

Rep. Vincent S. Aldan (Ind-Saipan) introduced the legislation last June 20. He also chairs the PUTC Committee.

GRAY

From page 1

Aaron Halegua and Bruce Berline, has filed a motion in opposition, stating that Century Estate is not entitled to intervene in this matter.

"The precedent in this circuit makes clear that district courts do not simply rubber stamp any motion for intervention that is filed. The intervenor bears the burden of making a showing that it is entitled to intervene. Century Estate has clearly failed to do so and thus its motion should be denied at this stage," the opposition states.

Gray's lawyers explained that there are four factors to consider in determining whether one is entitled to intervention: timeliness, an interest relating to the subject of the litigation, practical impairment of an interest of the party seeking intervention if intervention is not granted, and inadequate representation by the parties to the action.

"Century Estate has not presented any evidence to show that it actually satisfies the four criteria for intervening in a case," the opposition states.

In the first requirement that the motion to intervene be timely, Gray's attorneys argue that Century Estate should have filed its motion to intervene as soon as Gray applied for a writ of execution so as not to prejudice him, yet it failed to do so.

"Century Estate waited until the writ was executed by the U.S. Marshals Service and plaintiff moved to appoint Clear [Management] as the limited receiver before it took any action. This greatly prejudices Gray, who has already relied upon the absence of any other assertions of interests in the property subject to the writ," the plaintiffs argue.

To be specific, Gray initially filed for the writ of execution on July 3, 2023. However, Century Estate waited roughly 10 weeks to file its motion to intervene.

"In that time, plaintiff has paid USMS to enforce the writ as well as spent dozens of hours negotiating with Clear Management about liquidating IPI's assets and drafting a motion to appoint a receiver. Century Estate's intervention will further complicate and delay plaintiff's effort to recover on its judgment," said Gray's attorneys.

The second requirement to be entitled to an intervention is that the intervenor has a significantly protectable interest in the litigation. Gray's lawyers argue that Century Estate has not established that it has a valid security interest. In fact, they said, the evidence that Century Estate did provide to validate its claims to IPI's property could be fraudulent.

"Century Estate only submits the mortgage documents filed with the CNMI's Recorder's Office. However, as set forth in plaintiff's earlier filing, several 'badges of fraud' suggest that this alleged mortgage interest stems from a fraudulent conveyance and should be invalidated. The little evidence that Century Estate did provide actually contains additional evidence of fraudulent intent—for instance, the signatory for Century Estate is the executive director of IPI's parent company, and the dates that the mortgages were filed show an effort to obstruct creditors. Further, Century Estate has provided no evidence of any loan document, the actual transfer of the $9 million, or any effort to collect this debt. Accordingly, Century Estate has not met its burden to demonstrate that it has a valid interest in the property," said Gray's lawyers.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

HOUSE

From page 1

Senate for action.

House Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) is the author of the bill and many others are co-sponsors.

The bill authorizes and pledges the funds that MPLT would distribute as interest income to the general fund pursuant to Article 11, Section 6 of the CNMI Constitution as security and for repayment of the $15-million line of credit with the government through the Department of Finance at an annual rate of 5.5%.

Under the bill, the line of credit and the legislative authorization will both expire automatically at the end of 84 months and shall not be renewed nor extended.

Before the voting, Rep. Blas Jonathan T. Attao (Ind-Saipan) said this legislation in itself will not take any money away from MPLT, but only allows the process to have MPLT, the administration, and the Department of Finance sit down and negotiate a contractual agreement.

The central government had requested this line of credit as a sort of "bridge financing" for the over $60 million U.S. Economic Development Administration grants that the CNMI will receive. This means the CNMI government has to first spend its own money for select projects, then ask the EDA for reimbursements. One of the EDA grants is funding the ongoing Paseo de Marianas rehabilitation project.

"If we spent $5 million upfront, the EDA money comes in and we will replenish back the funds to MPLT if the contractor agreement is agreed upon," he said.

Attao pointed out that any MPLT borrowing that lawmakers had allowed in the past—whether it be for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., or any other autonomous agency—the central government has paid MPLT back and MPLT has tacked on an interest.

This legislation, Attao said, does not take out a loan with MPLT, but only allows the negotiation process to happen between MPLT and the administration.

Rep. Thomas John Dela Cruz Manglona (R-Saipan) said he understands the importance of this bill to get a lot of Capital Improvement Projects going, but he believes there's still a lot of confusion as far as MPLT monies are concerned and how they should be spent.

He said it's a strong legislation but he believes they possibly need to have a clear definition of how they can use MPLT to help out those of Northern Marianas descents.

"So I am going to support it but I do want to raise and pose that question: …How do we better utilize these monies to help our NMDs and how do we clearly define that, moving forward," Manglona said.

At the end of the day, Rep. Manny Gregory T. Castro (Ind-Saipan) said, concerns are still out there among many NMD constituents.

Castro said this is a worthy legislation because if they don't invest in any infrastructure, they won't get the investors they need to eventually get the dividends out to NMDs.

Villagomez stated in the legislation that MPLT has reviewed the initial planned drawdown requests by Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and has determined that a $15-million line of credit is suitable for the amounts needed, in any given 45-day period, during the next few years of forecasted drawdowns offered by the governor.

Last July 17, Palacios requested a line of credit in the amount of $20 million for "bridge financing or advances" for costs related to federally funded CIP from the EDA, whereby the CNMI would be reimbursed for such advances within 30 days of advancing such costs for grant projects.

DROP

From page 1

similar price adjustments, Shell had yet to drop its prices as of 3pm yesterday.

With this reduction in fuel prices, Mobil now charges $5.56 per gallon of Extra fuel from $5.66. Mobil also dropped its Supreme fuel from $6.11 to $6.01 per gallon while diesel dipped from $6.23 per gallon to $6.18.

Last Wednesday's drop in fuel prices was the second reduction seen in months.

The last time local oil companies dropped their prices was late last month, with regular fuel dropping from $5.76 per gallon to $5.66.

The downward trend in fuel prices came after a string of increases in the last few months.

The first increase was seen back on July 19 when, after more than two months of steady fuel prices, Mobil Oil Marianas broke the streak with a 15-cent increase. With the increase, regular fuel went up from $5.11 per gallon to $5.26 per gallon.

Less than a week after, on July 25, Shell Marianas surprised the CNMI community when it took the lead in implementing a 10-cent increase that brought regular fuel prices up from $5.26 per gallon to $5.36.

Again, less than a week after, on Aug. 2, gas went up 15 cents. With the previous increase, fuel went up from $5.36 per gallon to $5.51.

Following the Aug. 2 increase, local oil companies raised their prices again in a little over two weeks by 5 cents, with fuel increasing from $5.51 per gallon to $5.56.

After over a week, local oil companies raised its prices again by 10 cents, with gas prices rising from $5.56 per gallon to $5.66.

Soon after, local oil companies raised their prices again by 10 cents, bringing regular fuel up from $5.66 to $5.76 per gallon.

EX-DOF

From page 1

Federal Assistance & Disaster-related Funding agreed to issue a subpoena to compel Atalig's appearance before the panel.

It was not immediately clear if Atalig would do so, since he alone failed to appear among all the witnesses who were subpoenaed to appear before the joint House committees that started the probe into the BOOST Program in the previous legislature. At that time, he was either on off-island travel for medical reasons or unable to timely hire a legal counsel.

Special Committee on Federal Assistance & Disaster-related Funding chair Rep. Ralph N. Yumul (Ind-Saipan) also stated that Rep. Marissa Renee Flores' (Ind-Saipan) request to summon former governor Ralph DLG Torres to testify is noted.

Eight special committee members present at the meeting all agreed to give Yumul the authority to issue 1309 letters to be sent to the Bank of Saipan, Department of Finance's Division of Revenue and Taxation, Department of Commerce-Business License, contractors that were involved in the BOOST Program, and others.

A Letter 1309 in the Commonwealth Code refers to the acquisition of information by other lawful means.

Yumul said they will resume their meeting on Oct. 24 at 1:30pm to give them more time to prepare and get the 1309 letters out.

At the start of the meeting, Rep. Edwin K. Propst (Ind-Saipan), who is vice chairman of the special committee, said this is only one component of what they are all looking into.

Propst said this one is focused on about $1.9-billion federal funding that many people wonder where it all went.

He said they have decided to move forward and will start by reopening books and going through everything that they have received.

In addition to what they accepted that day in their House session from the 22nd House Special Committee, Propst said they have also met with Bank of Saipan president John Arroyo and his legal counsel, Matt Gregory. He said they appreciate Bank of Saipan's and Arroyo's open-door policy and that they have given lawmakers all the documents that they have requested so far.

Propst said there are several updates that will be coming out soon.

Propst disclosed that, through their meeting with Gov. Arnold I. Palacios that morning, they have found that there have been checks that have been cancelled or returned.

"And that's a good sign," said Propst, adding that out of the $17 million used in the BOOST Program, there's a lot that they are looking for.

He said what they have uncovered are businesses that received funding but never opened, and there are certain businesses that received money, but then closed down their businesses.

Flores said that, as chairperson of the Judiciary and Government Operations Committee, she made clear early on that she was not going to pursue the BOOST Program investigation. Flores said she didn't feel that she was ready to take such a huge endeavor.

She said she believes that under the leadership of Yumul and Propst, they could be able to close this chapter once and for all.

With the continuation of the fact-finding oversight, Rep. Vicente C. Camacho (D-Saipan) hopes that they can hold people or companies accountable for their involvement in the mismanagement of federal funds.

Aside from Yumul, Propst, Vicente Camacho, and Flores, the other members of the special committee are Reps. John Paul Sablan (Ind-Saipan), Angelo Atalig Camacho (Ind-Saipan), Diego Vincent Fejeran Camacho (D-Saipan), Blas Jonathan T. Attao (Ind-Saipan), and Vincent Seman Aldan.

NMC grad awarded 2023 District Teacher of the Year in San Antonio

Northern Marianas College School of Education alumnae Jiwon Rebekah Lee was recently awarded the 2023 District Teacher of the Year at Jubilee Westwood in San Antonio, Texas.

Lee, a fifth grade elementary school teacher, has also been recognized as Teacher of the Year for the past two consecutive academic years.

"It has been a great honor to be recognized among so many incredible educators, and I am grateful for this recognition for the District Teacher of the Year award," Lee said.

Lee's journey to becoming a teacher began at NMC, where she earned her Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education with high honors in 2018. She credits her NMC professors and former colleagues with helping her to develop the skills and knowledge she needed to be a successful teacher.

Lee

"My journey through Northern Marianas College was transformative," Lee said. "At NMC, I received an outstanding education, forged the importance of resilience, and discovered the power of mentorship."

Lee noted that with NMC, she was able to quickly transfer her credits and teacher certification process to teach, as well as further her education by pursuing her master's degree after transferring.

Lee expressed how she had never felt more prepared to enter her career field in teaching.

"I took the opportunity to grow and continue practicing the pedagogy I learned from NMC."

Additionally, Lee conveyed her appreciation toward her SOE professors and former colleagues here in Saipan, who have supported and encouraged her to strive for excellence in lifelong learning despite the distance.

"Just as I want to be for my students, I too am learning, and if it weren't for their demonstration of commitment to excellence, I wouldn't be standing here in this version of who I am today," she said.

"I am excited, and as I embark on my new journey into administration work, I can't wait for what lies ahead!"

NMC School of Education director Roland Merar congratulated Lee on her monumental achievement.

"Ms. Lee's journey from the NMC School of Education to becoming a beacon of excellence in the field of education serves as a shining example of what can be achieved through dedication, passion, and an unwavering commitment to the betterment of young minds. Not only has she earned the title of District Teacher of the Year for 2023, but she has also been recognized as Teacher of the Year for the past two consecutive academic years," he said.

"Once again, congratulations to Ms. Jiwon Rebekah Lee on her well-deserved accolade. I look forward to witnessing your own journeys toward excellence and the positive impact you will make in the world of education." ***(PR)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Karidat reopened services Monday

Karidat Social Services reopened all services last Monday, Oct. 2, 2023, at its location in Dandan on the ground floor of the three-story blue building (on the left, coming from San Vicente) just past the Ben Ki Store and Lucky De Market on Dandan Road.

Karidat Social Services' new service hours are from 8am to 4am.

"We thank you for your patience and understanding throughout our transition to our new location and we look forward to continuing our services to the community," Karidat said in a statement. ***(PR)***

New host family opportunities in FY 2024

The Saipan Mayor's Office announced an opportunity for community members to participate in its International Exchange Program by playing host to international students who will be visiting the CNMI in fiscal year 2024.

"We are actively seeking host families who are eager to provide a welcoming home for international students, fostering cultural exchange, and creating lifelong friendships," said a statement from the Saipan Mayor's Office. "Together, let's create memorable experiences and lifelong connections through the Saipan Mayor's Office International Exchange Program."

The news release did not indicate the nationalities of the visiting students, but they usually are from Japan.

For more information about the International Exchange Program or to express your interest in hosting, contact Hiroko Tenorio at (670)234-6208 or htenorio@mos.gov.mp or visit the saipanmayor.cnmi.gov website. ***(PR)***

NMPASI closed this week

The Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc. would like to inform the general public that its office will be closed the week of Oct. 2-6, 2023.

NMPASI will reopen at its location in the Marianas Business Plaza, Room 505 on Oct. 10, 2023. For assistance, contact (670) 235-7273. ***(PR)***

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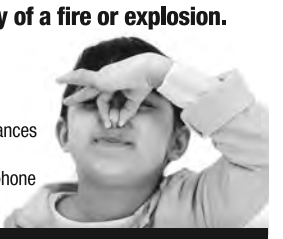

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MVA joins 2023 Gangwon exhibit

MVA

Carolinian dance troupe Island Warriors, adorned with coconut fronds, perform at the opening of the Gangwon Forestry Exhibition in South Korean on Sept. 23, 2023. The Marianas Visitors Authority attended the exhibition opening.

The Marianas Visitors Authority has helped open the 2023 Gangwon Forestry Exhibition in Gangwon province in South Korea with a taste of indigenous culture from The Marianas.

The exhibit "seeks the future of the world and mankind in the forest" and will be open through Oct. 22, 2023. The exhibit attracted 53,000 visitors on its opening days of Sept. 22-24, 2023. The exhibit opened with a live performance by the coconut-frond adorned Island Warriors, a Carolinian dance group from The Marianas and one of only two overseas performance teams—including Cebu province in the Philippines—featured among the opening performances. The traditional way of life of the indigenous Carolinian and Chamorro cultures of The Marianas is closely tied to both land and sea.

Gangwon Vice Governor Jeong Kwang-Yeol shared his impressions of the culture at a dinner on the night of the performance.

"I am truly amazed by the Island Warriors' intense energy as I was watching the Carolinian dance," said Jeong Kwang-Yeol. "Thank you, Island Warriors, for visiting Gangwon province and the 2023 Gangwon Forestry Exhibition and sharing a great power of Saipan, The Marianas."

Gangwon Governor Kim Jin-Tae was also in attendance at the packed event. The MVA also sent two staff members to the event, which included destination photos displayed during the dance performance. Lodging, meals, and ground transportation costs were sponsored by the government of Gangwon Province.

"The Gangwon Forestry Exhibition was an opportunity to promote the culture and stunning natural landscape of our islands.," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "Among Koreans, trekking and hiking has become quite popular, and it's a reminder that conservation of green spaces, trees, and forests must remain a part of our Marianas destination development."

The main exhibition is being held at Gangwon World Jamboree Center in Goseong County, with smaller venues elsewhere in the province. This inaugural exhibit is anticipated to return every two years. ***(PR)***

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

NAME OF EMPLOYER: American Yongcheng Corporation dba new Changming Market

THE POSITION: Building Maintenance

NUMBER OF VACANCIES: 1

JOB DESCRIPTION: Perform work involving the skills of two or more maintenance or craft occupations to keep machines, mechanical equipment or the structure of an establishment in repair; Perform work involving carpentry, plumbing, glass replacement, painting, masonry, ground keeping, electrical wiring; Perform pipe-fitting, boiler making, insulating, welding, machining, carpentry; Repairing electrical or mechanical equipment; Installation, aligning, and balancing of new equipment and repairing buildings, floors or stairs; Cleaning and general merchandise work inside and outside facilities; and Perform such other duties as may be assigned.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:
EDUCATION: Must be at least a High School graduate.
EXPERIENCE: Must have at least 24 months of relevant work experience as Building Maintenance

JOB SITE: Kadena Di Amor Street, Garapan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

HOW TO APPLY: If interested, please submit or mail application and comprehensive resume, with supporting credentials to:

LU, XUANBO
Secretary
AMERICAN YONGCHENG CORPORATION
DBA NEW CHANGMING MARKET
Office Address: Kadena Di Amor Street, Garapan Saipan,
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Mailing Address: PMB 128, P.O. Box 10003, Saipan, MP 96950
Email Address: amer.yongcheng123@gmail.com
Telephone Number: 1 (670) 233-5288

CARGO EXPRESS INC.

JOB VACANCY

Accounting Manager

Qualifications:

- Bachelor's Degree in Accountancy
- Minimum of five (5) years of professional accounting experience with a strong background in data analysis.
- Knowledgeable in Peachtree/ Sage Accounting, Quickbooks Software & MS Office Apps

Email Resume: ceispn@cargoexpressi.com or
Visit our office at Lower Base Drive, Lower Base, Saipan
Office Hours / Days: 8am – 5pm / Monday – Friday

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

NAME OF EMPLOYER: NIIZEKI INTERNATIONAL SAIPAN COMPANY, LTD.
THE POSITION: CHIEF ACCOUNTANT
NUMBER OF OPENINGS: 1

JOB DESCRIPTION: REVIEW, FORMULATE, RECOMMEND, AND IMPLEMENT ACCOUNTING POLICIES, SYSTEMS, AND PROCEDURES OF THE COMPANY, INCLUDING INTERNAL CONTROL; PREPARE FINANCIAL REPORTS, MAINTENANCE OF AN ADEQUATE SYSTEM OF ACCOUNTING RECORDS; ENSURE THE ACCURACY OF THE COMPANY'S REPORTED FINANCIAL RESULTS, AND ENSURE THAT REPORTED RESULTS COMPLY WITH GENERALLY ACCEPTED ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES (GAAP) AND FINANCIAL REPORTING STANDARDS; PROVIDE OVERALL PLANNING, DIRECTION, SUPERVISION, COORDINATION, AND CONTROL OF ALL ACCOUNTING WORKS; REVIEW ALL WORKING PAPERS, FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND REPORTS; REVIEW AND ANALYZE COSTS AS COMPARED WITH PREVIOUS YEARS AND BUDGET FIGURES, IF AVAILABLE; REVIEW AND ANALYZE DETAILED EXPENSES IN RELATION TO THE INCOME STATEMENTS AND PREPARE INTERNAL REPORTS FOR SUBMISSION TO THE VICE-PRESIDENT/MANAGING DIRECTOR; EXAMINE AND EVALUATE FINANCIAL AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS AND RECOMMEND CONTROLS TO ENSURE SYSTEM RELIABILITY AND DATA INTEGRITY; COORDINATE AND SUPERVISE THE ACTIVITIES AND FUNCTIONS OF THE ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT; VERIFY ALL JOURNALS, CHECKS AND ACCOUNTS PAYABLE VOUCHERS AND CHECKS PROPRIETY OF ENTRIES AND ADEQUACY OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS AND COMPUTATIONS, INCLUDING PAYROLL AND TAXES; FORMULATE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES AND ENSURES THAT EACH DEPARTMENT STRICTLY FOLLOW COMPANY'S BUDGET, POLICIES AND REGULATIONS; ENSURE THAT COMPANY'S ASSETS, LIABILITIES, INCOME, COST AND EXPENSES ARE PROPERLY BOOKED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GAAP; SUPERVISE AND COORDINATE WITH BOOKKEEPERS TO ENSURE THAT POSTINGS TO THE BOOKS OF ACCOUNTS ARE ACCURATE AND THAT THE SUBSIDIARY LEDGERS ARE UP-TO-DATE AND PERIODICALLY RECONCILE WITH THE GENERAL LEDGER; REVIEW AGING OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLES AND RECEIVABLES; PREPARE THE FOLLOWING FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND REPORTS FOLLOWING GAAP AND STATUTORY BASIS: BALANCE SHEETS, INCOME STATEMENTS, AND OTHER FINANCIAL REPORTS; REVIEW TAX RETURNS PRIOR TO FILING, SUCH AS GROSS RECEIPTS TAX, PAYROLL TAXES, ETC., MAKING SURE THAT THEY ARE COMPUTED CORRECTLY AND PAID ON TIME; PERFORM TREASURER FUNCTIONS SUCH AS MATCHING AND TIMING OF FUND SOURCES WITH DISBURSEMENTS AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF BUDGET (IF AVAILABLE); REVIEW AND APPROVE CHECK DISBURSEMENTS; REVIEW AND APPROVE PAYROLL COMPUTATION; AND PERFORM OTHER DUTIES THAT MAYBE ASSIGNED BY HIGHER MANAGEMENT.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:
EDUCATION: MUST HAVE A BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN ACCOUNTANCY
EXPERIENCE: MUST HAVE AT LEAST SIXTY (60) MONTHS OF RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE AS AN ACCOUNTANT
OTHER SPECIAL SKILLS: MUST BE KNOWLEDGEABLE WITH ALL ASPECTS OF ACCOUNTING MANAGEMENT; PROFICIENT IN USING QUICKBOOKS, PEACHTREE OR OTHER BUSINESS ACCOUNTING SOFTWARE PROGRAMS AND MS WORD AND EXCEL
JOB SITE: JESUS T. ATTAO ST. CORNER FILOORIS AVE., GARAPAN, SAIPAN, COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
HOW TO APPLY: SUBMIT OR MAIL YOUR APPLICATIONS AND COMPREHENSIVE RESUME WITH SUPPORTING CREDENTIALS TO:

TAKAYUKI NIIZEKI
PRESIDENT
NIIZEKI INTERNATIONAL SAIPAN COMPANY, LTD.

OFFICE ADDRESS: JESUS T. ATTAO ST. CORNER FILOORIS AVE., GARAPAN, SAIPAN, COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 5140 CHRB, SAIPAN, MP 96950
EMAIL ADDRESS: NIS.CO.LIMITED@GMAIL.COM
TELEPHONE NUMBER: 1 (670) 234-5050

MMC & Pacific Labs LLC

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

POSITION TITLE: ACCOUNTANT (1 POSITION)

POSITION DUTIES:
Follows all generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP); Prepare, examine or analyze records, financial statements, or other financial reports to assess accuracy, completeness, and conformance to reporting and procedural standards; Prepares detailed revenue and sales reports each month and reports to management regarding the financial health of the medical clinic; Prepare and reconcile monthly general ledger for all general billing and patient accounts; Analyze clinic operations, trends, costs, revenues, financial commitments, and obligations to project future revenues and expenses or to provide advice to management; Advise management about issues such as resource utilization, tax strategies, and the assumption underlying budget forecasts; Prepares and/or supervise the preparation and approves payroll reports to ensure proper federal and state tax and benefit withholding; Prepares all monthly and quarterly tax reports for filing with proper tax authorities; Reconciles bank account statements and adjust journal entries each month; Reconciles monthly merchant statements; Prepares and review the preparation of all relevant financial statements and documents and reporting for annual tax filings; Reviews and reconciles all financial summary reports from the day before, compiles reports in preparation for mid-month financial reporting to management; Performs other related duties as assigned.

REQUIREMENTS:
- Bachelor's Degree in Accounting or related field of study. Foreign equivalent is acceptable;
- Minimum of 24 months experience in accounting field;
- Must be a U.S. Certified Public Account (foreign certification is acceptable);
- Must be familiar with and be able to work with QuickBooks Accounting Software;

WORKING CONDITIONS:
- 40 hrs. weekly

RATE OF PAY: $16.19/hr.

The employer will pay or exceed the prevailing wage as determined by the U.S. Department of Labor.

If interested apply to:
Ni Nie Deleon Guerrero, General Manager
MMC & Pacific Labs, LLC
PMB 145, Box 10003
JKR Bldg., Beach Road, Garapan
Saipan, MP 96950
Contact no. 1 (670) 234-3925/3926
E-mail: nidlg@mmcplcsaipan.com

LOCATION OF EMPLOYMENT: MMC & Pacific Labs, LLC; JKR Bldg., Beach Rd., Garapan, PMB 145 Box 10003, Saipan, MP 96950

JOE HILL, Esq.,
HILL LAW OFFICES
P.O. Box 500917, Saipan, MP 96950
Phone: (670) 234-6806/7743
FAX: (670) 234-7753

Attorney for Petitioner

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FO THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

CHRISTOPHER STEPHEN GANGAN IBAROLA Petitioner,	]	FCD DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 23-0104
versus	]	**SUMMONS**
ELENITA CAMPOS TORRES Respondent.	]	

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Petition for Divorce which is given you herewith, within thirty (30) days after service of this Summons upon you.
YOUR ANSWER SHOULD BE IN WRITING and filed with the Clerk of Court, Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal, House of Justice, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan, MP 96950 and served upon petitioner's counsel, Atty. Joe Hill, P.O. Box 500917, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.
If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Petition for Divorce.
By order of the above Court:

Dated this 14th day of March, 2023.

/s/
Deputy Clerk of Court
Superior Court

2023 Toys for Toys Campaign commences in CNMI

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Marine Corps Base Camp Blaz officers were joined by representatives from the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, Commonwealth Bureau of Military Affairs, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Women's Association, and the Associated Students of Northern Marianas College in a courtesy call to first lady Wella Palacios at the Office of the Governor on Capital Hill.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Marine Corps Base Camp Blaz officers were guests of last Wednesday's Saipan Chamber of Commerce monthly general membership at the Hyatt Regency Saipan meeting where they launched the 2023 Toys for Toys campaign.

Marine Corps Base Camp Blaz is proud to announce the start of the seventh Toys for Tots campaign in the CNMI. With a partnership between the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, Commonwealth Bureau of Military Affairs, CNMI Women's Association, and the Associated Students of Northern Marianas College, toy collection boxes will be placed at local businesses and government offices during the first week of October. Toy collection will conclude Dec. 8.

Last year 4,227 toys were collected on Saipan, going to children in need and spreading a message of happiness and hope during the holiday season. At the conclusion of the campaign, toys from Saipan were also sent to the Mayor's Offices of Tinian and Rota with the help of Star Marianas. Toys were also given to Karidat Social Services, Division of Youth Services, and Maternal and Child Health Bureau of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

"As Marines, our mission is to serve and protect the nation," said Col. Ernest Govea, MCB Camp Blaz commanding officer. "Similarly, we extend our commitment to giving back to the communities we call home. We are very proud to lead the Toys for Tots campaign once again this year, and we stand ready alongside our community to ensure every child across the Marianas experiences the joy of the holiday season."

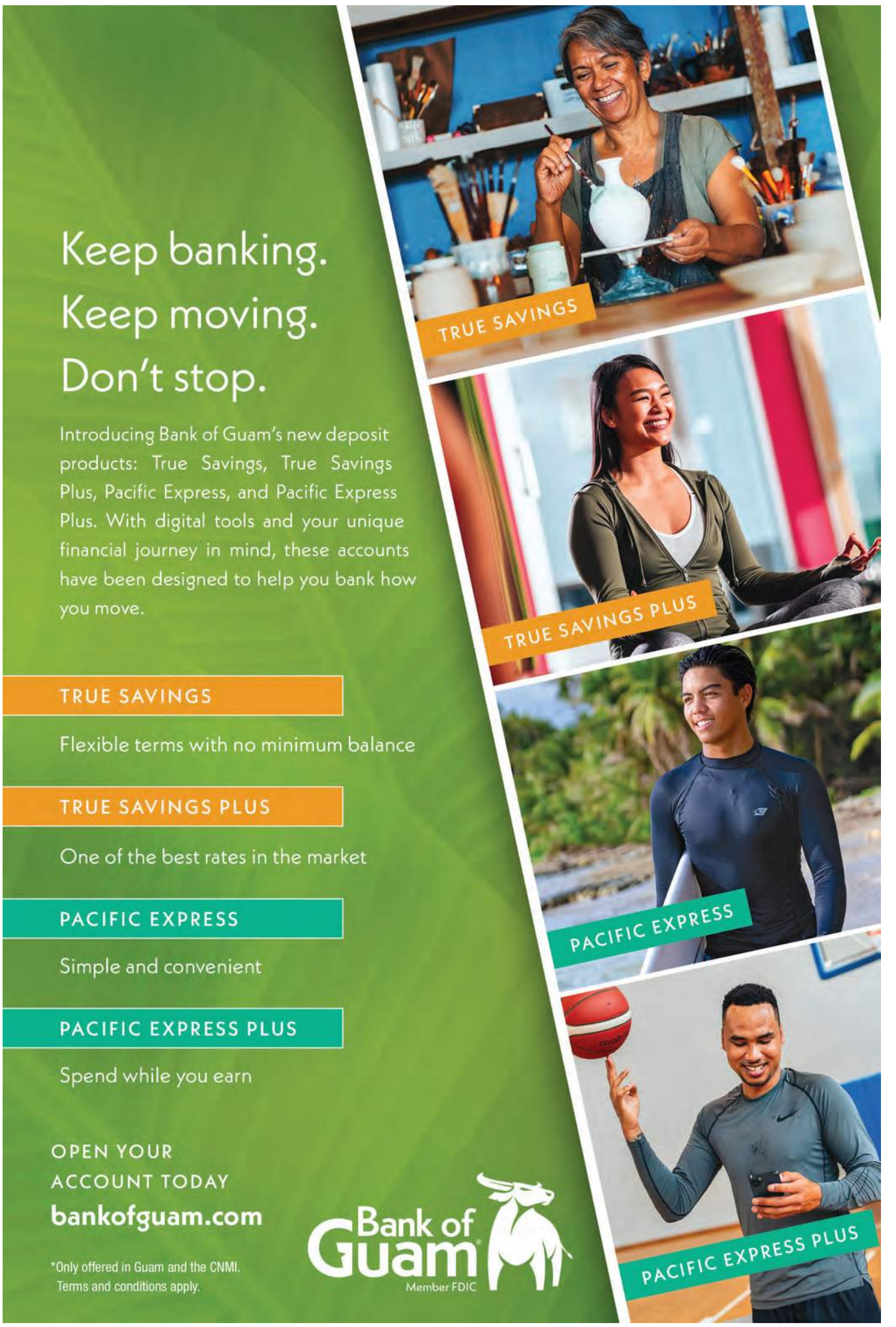
The Toys for Tots Campaign relies on widespread support and through the generous contributions of individuals, businesses, and communities. The 2023 campaign encourages everyone to get involved, whether through toy donations or serving as a donation location.

"Nothing is more precious than bringing joy and smiles this holiday season to the children across the Marianas," said Wella Palacios, CNMI first lady. "We look forward to working with the government agencies and our partners to gather toys to share the Christmas spirit and joy with our children."

To participate and donate to Toys for Tots, bring a newly purchased, unwrapped toy to one of the many businesses or organizations who have volunteered to be drop-off locations. For a complete list of locations and important dates, please visit the Chamber's website at www.saipanchamber.com, call (670) 234-7150 or visit their Facebook page @SPNChamber. For more information about MCB Camp Blaz's Toys for Tots Campaign please contact Gunnery Sgt. Rubin Tan at (671) 362-7375 or email rubin.tan@usmc.mil.

"The Saipan Chamber of Commerce is honored once again this Christmas season to partner with the U.S. Marine Corps Base Camp Blaz to support the annual Toys for Tots program. We aim to leverage our network of businesses and organizations to gather toys that will raise the spirits and bring joy to thousands of children throughout the CNMI," said Joe Guerrero, Saipan Chamber of Commerce president. "This is another way that the Saipan Chamber of Commerce gives back to its community, and we are always happy to invest in our children."

The Marine Toys for Tots Foundation is a not-for-profit charity with a 76-year history. Last year the Marine Toys for Tots Program fulfilled the holiday hopes and dreams of 9.9 million less fortunate children in over 800 communities nationwide by distributing 24.4 million toys. For more information, visit www.toysfortots.org. ***(PR)***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Wanted:
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

Saipan Tribune is looking for a sports correspondent.

Qualifications:

- First and foremost, must be a fan of all manner of sports
- Must have a creative flair in writing
- Comfortable with interviewing people
- Able to work on weekends and at night
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- Not a boring 9-to-5 job
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Email your application and résumé to Mia Carreon at mia_carreon@tanholdings.com or drop them off at the HR office on the second floor of the JP Center building in Garapan, Saipan.

JKPL will be closed on Monday, Tuesday

Because the upcoming Commonwealth Cultural Day holiday falls on a Monday, when the library is usually closed, the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library will also be closed on Tuesday, Oct. 10, 2023. JKPL will resume normal operational hours on Wednesday, Oct. 11, 2023, at 10am.

"Wishing you all a happy Commonwealth Cultural Day as we celebrate the beauty, diversity, and significance of the many cultures that bind us together and the traditions passed down from our ancestors! Biba, Marianas!" the library said in a statement.

How to celebrate

Here's how you can celebrate Commonwealth Cultural Day with the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library:

1. Check out our Pacific Room display in the main lobby featuring local authors and local artisans and their crafts

2. Check out our library social media accounts on our Pacific Cultural Corner. We highlight various books and library materials from the Pacific Room and share this knowledge with our community.

3. Check out some local titles available at the JKPL:

■ *Lepblu put Suruhåna/ Suruhånu Siha yan Åmut Siha gi Commonwealth I Sankattan na Islan Marianas/Directory of Traditional Healers and Medicinal Plants in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands* by Manuel Flores Borja and Jose Somorang Roppul;

■ *Oceania* written by Katherina Prout and Illustrated by John Lennon

■ *The Official Chamorro-English Dictionary/Ufisiat Na Diksionarion Chamorro-Engles* by the Department of Chamorro Affairs (Depattamenton I Kaohao Guinahan) Chamorro Division of Research, Publication, and Training

■ *We Drank Our Tears: Memories of the Battles for Saipan and Tinian as Told by Our Elders* by the Pacific STAR Center for Young Writers

For more information regarding any of our activities, contact JKPL at (670) 235-7322/7318.

How can you help assist with our programs?

We welcome and encourage businesses to consider donating Educational Tax Credit. Pursuant to NMI Public Law 15-120, the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library is able to receive cash contributions under Educational Tax Credit. Please make checks payable to: CNMI Treasury. For MUNIS payments, to the Friends of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library MUNIS Vendor ID#100404.

■ The JKPL hours of operation are as follows: Tuesday to Thursday, 10am to 6pm; Friday, 1:30pm to 7pm; and Saturday, 9:30am to 4pm. Closed Sundays, Mondays, Austerity Saturdays, and holidays.

■ Closed for JKPL Austerity on the following Saturdays: Oct. 14 and Oct. 28, 2023. ***(PR)***

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Auto Mechanic – JMC-2023-01
Saipan, CNMI

Auto Mechanic,
Joeten Motor Company, Inc., Saipan, CNMI

Repair automobiles, trucks, buses, and other vehicles. Follow supervisors' instructions to examine vehicles to determine extent of damage or malfunctions. Test drive vehicles, and test components and systems, using equipment such as infrared engine analyzers, compression gauges, and computerized diagnostic devices. Repair, reline, replace, and adjust brakes. Review work orders and discuss work with supervisors. Follow checklists to ensure all important parts are examined, including belts, hoses, steering systems, spark plugs, brake and fuel systems, wheel bearings, and other potentially troublesome areas. Plan work procedures, using charts, technical manuals, and experience. Test and adjust repaired systems to meet manufacturers' performance specifications. Confer with customers to obtain descriptions of vehicle problems, and to discuss work to be performed and future repair requirements. Perform routine and scheduled maintenance services such as oil changes, lubrication, and tune-ups. Disassemble units and inspect parts for wear, using micrometers, calipers, and gauges. Does other duties as assigned from time to time.

Minimum Requirements: Must have 12 months experience. High School Diploma or equivalent. Ability to diagnose and repair vehicles and follow safety instructions and directions. Proficiency with hand tools and other equipment. Record keeping and maintaining inventory. Applicants must pass Auto Parts skilled test (Total Passing Score of 89%) during application process. The skill testing and comprehension exam are required equally of both US and Foreign workers. Must be able to work on weekends and holidays on short notice.

Salary: $ 9.93 - $14.00 per hour.

Workplace: BEACH ROAD SAN JOSE VILLAGE, JOETEN MOTORS BUILDING Saipan, CNMI

Please submit your resume to Joeten Susupe Main Office or Joeten Motor Company, Inc., PO BOX 500680, Saipan, MP 96950 or e-mail to judy_ann@joetenmotors.com and hrd1@joeten.com, website: joetenmotors.com Job Number – **JMC-2023-01**

DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

P. O. Box 501304, Saipan MP 96950 | Gualo Rai Center, Saipan
Tel. No. 664-8300 FAX NO. 664-8315
www.dcrm.gov.mp

NOTICE OF APPLICATION
As of October 06, 2023

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICE:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. J & Y Corporation	09/08/2023 SLRm-2023-097	Mooring Buoy	Saipan Lagoon	Lagoon & Reef	Approved* 09/21/2023
2. Micronesia Resort, Inc. dba Kensington Hotel Saipan	09/19/2023 SLR-2023-103	Emergency Rescue Jetski Operation	San Roque, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Certified Complete* 09/28/2023 Approved* 10/02/2023

NMIAC §15-10-210 of the CRM Rules and Regulations requires all permit applications to be published in a newspaper for general circulation within the CNMI within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APCs) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.

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WE ARE HIRING!
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Island Training Solutions (ITS) is actively seeking accomplished individuals with demonstrated proficiency in advanced-level Microsoft Office applications (MS Word, PowerPoint, and Excel), as well as expertise in industry-standard ADOBE Programs, including inDesign, Photoshop, Dreamweaver, and Illustrator. In addition, we are seeking candidates with a strong background in IT, encompassing networking, network security, and device configuration. If you possess these qualifications and have a passion for imparting knowledge, we invite you to consider joining our team.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Highly Proficient in any field listed
  - Microsoft Office: MS Word, PowerPoint, Excel
  - Adobe Applications: Insight, Photoshop, Dreamweaver, Illustrator, and etc.
  - IT Related Courses: Such as networking, network security, and device configuration.
- A flexible schedule is considered advantageous.
- Previous instructional or teaching experience is highly valued.
- Access to reliable transportation
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills

APPLY NOW

SEND YOUR RESUME TO:
Marketing.islandtraining@gmail.com

MORE INFORMATION:
670-287-7037 or
www.isalndtrainingcmi,com

Name: Olivia Borja Aldan
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 500817
Saipan, MP 96950
Phone: (670) 287-7864

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE MATTER OF THE APPOINTMENT OF AS GUARDIAN OF THE ESTATE OF: **M.R.M.A.** – INITIALS ONLY Minor Child(ren) By: **Olivia Borja Aldan** Petitioner(s)	FCD-GU CIVIL ACTION NO. 23-0352 **NOTICE OF HEARING**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petition for Appointment of Guardian(s) for the Estate of the above-named minor child(ren) by (Name(s) of Petitioner(s)) Olivia Borja Aldan, was filed with the above-entitled Honorable Court.

A HEARING of said Petition will be held at the above-entitled Honorable Court at Superior Court before Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio on the 18th day of October, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. in Courtroom 217A or as soon as thereafter.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court
/s/
By: Deputy Clerk of Court

FROM RIDGE TO REEF

A Series of Articles Written by the 2023 DCRM Summer Interns

Issue No. 6 of 8

www.dcrm.gov.mp

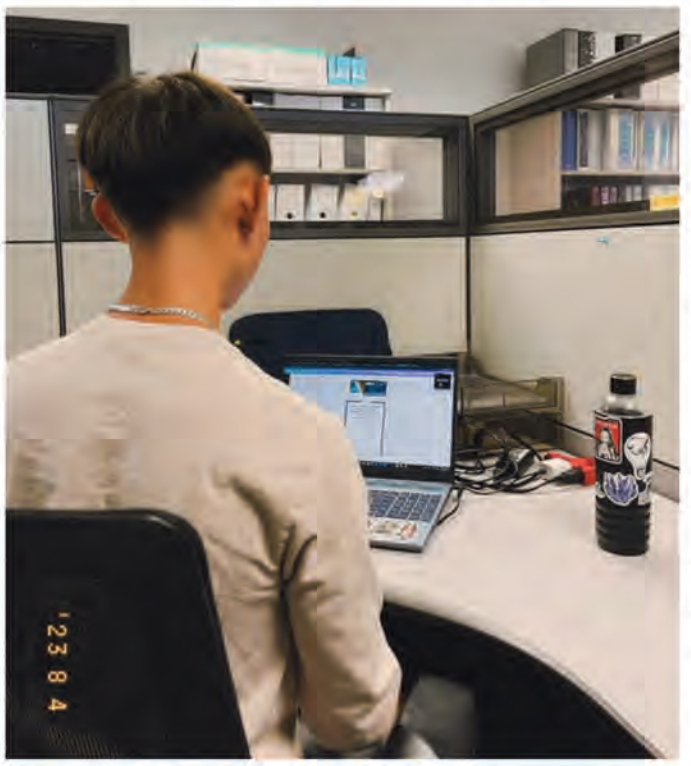
The CNMI's Voice in Federal Decision-Making

ALEXANDER TUDELA

"To preserve, protect, develop, and where possible, to restore or enhance the resources of the nation's coastal zone" – that is the goal of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) of 1972.

The CZMA is administered by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and contains a particular provision that gives the CNMI a chance to speak up against certain proposed federal action(s) that will likely impact our coastal use or resources; this provision is called *federal consistency* and can be found under Section 307 of the CZMA. Federal consistency requires that certain federal actions that take place within or outside of the coastal zone that have reasonably foreseeable effects on any coastal use or resource, be consistent with the enforceable policies of the CNMI's coastal management program (CMP). The CNMI CMP is administered by the Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) under the Bureau of Environmental & Coastal Quality (BECQ).

As a summer intern under DCRM's federal consistency program, I worked under the guidance of my mentor, Arthur (Art) Charfaurus, Coastal Resources Planner III, whom I have learned so much from. I was tasked to update



and redesign DCRM's Federal Consistency Procedures Guide and ensure that the document is 508 compliant. The purpose is to establish accessibility of the document and include updates from NOAA. The guide is mainly for federal agencies and those conducting federally funded activities or needing to acquire a federal license/permit. It is an online pdf posted on the DCRM website to be publicly available to anyone interested in learning more about federal consistency. I primarily used Canva to accomplish all design elements of the guide, google sheets to organize the CNMI's enforceable policies and accessed an online color contrast tester and multiple pdf's to guide me in establishing 508 compliance.

Overall, redesigning and updating DCRM's federal consistency guide is essential in ensuring federal agencies are equipped with the necessary information to be consistent with the CNMI's enforceable policies. Federal consistency gives the CNMI a voice or a say in projects conducted and/or funded by federal agencies within/outside our coastal zone that can have reasonably foreseeable effects to our coastal resources. Traditionally, federal policy permitted federal agencies to conduct their activities haphazardly, not considering the use of a state's land or water resources (Brewer, W. C., 1976). It wasn't until the enactment of the CZMA and its federal consistency provision that a pretty radical change was made in traditional federal policy.

Brewer, W. C. (1976). Federal consistency and state expectations. Coastal Zone Management Journal, 2(4), 315–325. https://doi.org/10.1080/08920757609361720

Managing the Dynamic Nature of Coastal Areas

MADISON SABLAN

As an intern at the Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) under the Shoreline Monitoring Program, I've learned so much throughout the summer. With the guidance of my mentor, Mary Fem Urena, I learned how to monitor our beaches in Saipan using survey-grade tools such as the berger method and total station. Ashton et. al (2007) stated, "recently, big improvements in technology have improved the capabilities to investigate processes and sedimentary deposits in the coastal zone, allowing us to address some of the problems involved in shoreline change."

Our shorelines naturally change throughout time. However, with storms that drive high wave energy onto our shores, it raises a big concern for beach loss. That is why we use the berger level as a great method to measure our shorelines. To use this technique, we must first locate the headstake and then place a transect line from the headstake to the bottom of the beach toe. We then set up the tripod, making sure it is secured and calibrated. The elevation difference using the telescope is then determined using a rod. After gathering the data, we enter it into Microsoft Excel and generate a beach profile, which provides a clear depiction of the changes occurring in our shorelines and how they alter over time.

An unhealthy shoreline is one that has been degraded, polluted, or has lost biodiversity. Because of human activities—such as improper waste disposal, urban development, or industrial pollution—it may have eroding or contaminated soil, diminished vegetation, poor water quality, and limited aquatic life. It can result in an increase of erosion and the amount of bad nutrients that can enter the water. However, a healthy one prevents soil erosion, reduces impacts of flooding, helps maintain clear water, and much more. A healthy shoreline has the ability to recover and stabilize. Before starting this internship, I was clueless on the importance of our shorelines. Now I see why shoreline monitoring is crucial for understanding and managing the dynamic nature of coastal areas. Shoreline monitoring helps address erosion, assess hazards, adapt to climate change, protect ecosystems, manage resources, and guide policy development, ultimately contributing to the sustainable and resilient management of coastal environments.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

The speaker is history: Kevin McCarthy's weakness was his downfall

In January, after 14 failed roll call votes—during each of which he got fewer votes than Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries—Republican Kevin McCarthy came into the office of speaker of the House in an historic fashion, showing his extraordinary weakness among his own conference. Instead of the normal date and time for a speaker to assume the office, Jan. 3 at noon, according to when the Constitution says the term of the Congress begins and ends, McCarthy limped to victory just after midnight on Jan. 7, at 12:37 a.m. As we said, historic.

McCarthy's early departure was equally in an historic fashion, showing his extraordinary weakness among his own conference. Instead of the normal date and time for a speaker to relinquish the office, Jan. 3 at noon, according to when the Constitution says the term of the Congress begins and ends, McCarthy was thrown out on Oct. 3, at 4:42 p.m. As we said, historic.

The presiding officer, Rep. Steve Womack, announced the vote of 216 (which included eight GOP rebels) to 210 that, "the office of speaker of the House of the United States House of Representatives is hereby declared vacant." More history.

And under a post-9/11 continuity of government convention, McCarthy ally Patrick McHenry automatically became speaker pro tempore. That's also historic.

So much history, but the Founding Fathers would not be pleased.

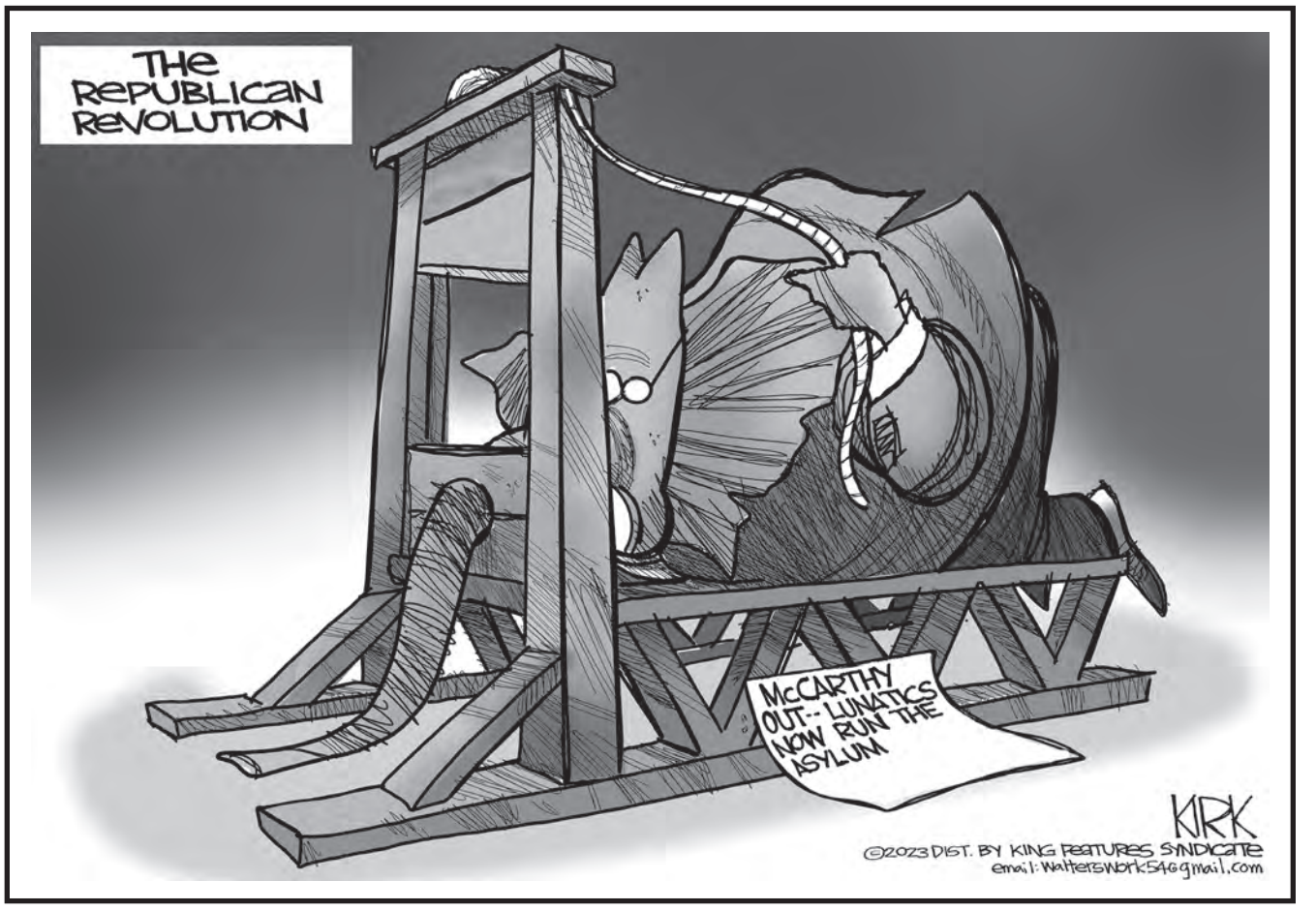
McCarthy, who will not run again for speaker, ends up as the third shortest tenure since we started having speakers in 1789. He lasted just 269 days, a scant 11 days more than the forgotten Michael Kerr of Indiana, who died in office in 1876. McCarthy also died in office, but is still walking around. (The shortest tenure was New Yorker Theodore Pomeroy's single day in 1869.)

McCarthy gave the seeds to his destruction to bomb thrower Matt Gaetz in exchange for letting McCarthy win in January. Then Gaetz was leader of a band of six who refused to vote for McCarthy for speaker. The bomb given by McCarthy to Gaetz was to allow a single member to make a privileged motion to vacate the chair.

Gaetz was honest that he was going to do it and McCarthy tried to bluff him. The bluff was called and Gaetz's faction grew to eight. Jeffries and the Democrats were not going to interfere in the Republican civil war and pushed McCarthy out of the seat.

Gaetz's immediate excuse was that McCarthy, in working to prevent a government shutdown, had violated a rule that members must have 72 hours to read bills before voting. McCarthy also relied on Democratic votes to avoid the shutdown, another no-no. Adding to his list of complaints was that Gaetz insisted on single subject spending bills instead of big omnibus packages and that appropriations of more than $100 million should not be on the suspension

See SPEAKER on Page 11



Advancing access and equity

By JIM RAYPHAND
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Last Sept. 28, 2023, Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang held an intimate gathering of individuals with disabilities and various advocates for a proclamation signing to declare the month of October as National Disability Employment Awareness Month, commonly referred to as NDEAM. "Advancing Access and Equity: Then, Now and Next" is the nationally recognized theme for the month.

NDEAM's roots go back to 1945, when Congress enacted a law declaring the first week in October each year "National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week." In 1962, the word "physically" was removed to acknowledge the employment needs and contributions of individuals with all types of disabilities. In 1988, Congress expanded the week to a month and changed the name to "National Disability Employment Awareness Month." Upon its establishment in 2001, the Office of Disability Employment Policy assumed responsibility for NDEAM and has worked to expand its reach and scope ever since.

Our Gov. Palacios (landing a mere few hours off a whirlwind trip to the nation's capital for meetings with President Joe Biden and other leaders from the Pacific region) pointed out at last week's ceremony that, "We've been doing this every year and I continue to be impressed by [so many of you]. …It's important that we keep doing everything we can to recognize 'the valued contributions people with disabilities make in our nation's workplaces' and make sure that every citizen is included in any programs or employment opportunities, whether it be in government or in private businesses. It's important that we continue to advocate for those who may in one way or another have some sort of disability."

Essentially, he was acknowledging individuals with disabilities at the ceremony who, despite the challenges inherent with having a disability, continue to persevere in the workplace and lead meaningful lives as contributing members of our community.

Among the speakers during the proclamation signing, John Cabrera, a young man who uses a wheelchair as a result of a spinal injury incurred during a car accident when he was 10 years old, shared that (thanks in large part to community advocates and general support from disability-related programs acknowledging his abilities and advocating with him) he has "been gainfully employed for 14 years—10 years with OVR and four with NMPASI."

For his part, Preston Basa, vice chairperson for the State Rehabilitation Council, former special education teacher and current vice principal of Marianas High School, reminded everyone in a written statement read by Interim Education Commissioner Donna Flores that "NDEAM serves as a platform to bring attention to the importance of creating inclusive workplaces that provide equal opportunities for individuals with disabilities. It encourages employers to hire, retain, and promote people with disabilities, recognizing the unique skills and perspectives they bring to the workforce. Throughout the month of October, various organizations, employers, advocacy

See ADVANCING on Page 11

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang pose with advocates and individuals with disabilities last Sept. 28, 2023, in front of the Office of the Governor after a proclamation signing that declared the month of October as National Disability Employment Awareness Month.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Equal opportunities for those with disabilities

By PRESTON BASA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Preston Basa is vice chairperson of the State Rehabilitation Council in the CNMI.

Editor's Note: The following is the complete text of the author's written statement at the proclamation signing ceremony for National Disability Employment Awareness Month. The statement was read by Interim Education Commissioner Donna Flores.

Today, I would like to share a brief history on National Disability Employment Awareness Month, or NDEAM, and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

The NDEAM serves as a platform to bring attention to the importance of creating inclusive workplaces that provide equal opportunities for individuals with disabilities. It encourages employers to hire, retain, and promote people with disabilities, recognizing the unique skills and perspectives they bring to the workforce. Throughout the month of October, various organizations, employers, advocacy groups, and government agencies across the nation conduct events, workshops, and outreach programs to educate the public about disability employment issues and promote a more inclusive workforce.

A couple days ago, we celebrated the 50th anniversary of this law. On Sept. 26, 1973, this important law was passed to ensure that people with disabilities have equal opportunities and access to various aspects of life, just like everyone else. Before this law, life was often much harder for people with disabilities. They faced discrimination, and it was tough to get an education or a good job. Imagine a world where some doors are open to you, but others are closed, simply because of who you are or the challenges you face. The Rehabilitation Act was designed to change that and open more doors for people with disabilities.

A key part of this law is Section 504. It said that places that got money from the federal government could not discriminate against people with disabilities. They had to make their places and programs accessible for everyone. This was a big deal because it meant that people with disabilities could be a part of everything, just like everyone else.

The impact of this law has been huge. It led the way for laws like the American with Disabilities Act, which is still in effect today to make sure that everyone has a fair shot. Thanks to the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, we have more accessible buildings, better job opportunities and more inclusive schools. It is a law that keeps making life better for everyone.

Fundamentally, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 is all about ensuring that people with disabilities are not left behind, that they have the same opportunities as everyone else. It is about removing barriers and opening doors.

With that said, let us remember and celebrate this important step in our journey toward a more inclusive and fair society, where everyone, no matter their abilities, can pursue their dreams and live life to the fullest. Together, we can ensure that every individual has the chance to shine and contribute their unique talents to our society.

Thank you and have a wonderful day!

We're not ready for rising temperatures in a rapidly aging nation

By DANIELLE ARIGONI
PROGRESSIVE PERSPECTIVES

We will remember the summer of 2023 as our hottest season on record—at least until next year. Communities in Texas and Florida endured weeks-long stretches of record-setting high temperatures, and Phoenix beat its own previous record when it reached an average monthly temperature of 102.7 in July. For many, there is a growing sense that this is the beginning of a "new normal" for which we are unprepared.

We are also largely unprepared for a rapidly aging population. In about a decade, more Americans will be over 65 than under 18 for the first time. This demographic shift is well underway in the places hit hardest by climate-fueled heat waves. Florida and Texas have some of the nation's largest concentrations of people over 65—4.6 million and 3.9 million, respectively; only California has more, with 6 million. Arizona saw its 65+ population grow by nearly 55% to 1.4 million between 2010 and 2020.

Extreme heat and other climate impacts are already disproportionately impacting older adults. Yet to date, efforts to build resilience have failed to consider what climate change means for this vulnerable population.

For older adults, climate-fueled disasters can be a matter of life and death. From Hurricane Katrina, where over two-thirds of the more than 1,300 people who died were older than 60, to last winter's storms in Buffalo, New York, older adults are far more likely to die in extreme weather events than younger people. That holds true for heat waves as well. Deaths from heat-related illnesses claim the lives of 12,000 people each year, of which 80% are over 60.

Why? On top of the physical effects of aging, older adults are more likely to have underlying health conditions or take medications that interfere with a body's ability to cool itself.

Low-income older adults are especially vulnerable, as they struggle to pay higher electric bills from greater use of air-conditioning. Indeed, 17% of low-income older-adult headed households report that they have had to forego necessities for at least one month to pay an energy bill. The majority of older adults live outside of nursing home, and among those, 27% live alone in their homes, often lacking social networks that could help monitor their safety and well-being. What's more, some are unable to procure food, prescriptions and health care when they don't drive—as is the case for nearly 20% of older adults—and can't safely use public transportation during heat waves.

As temperatures rise in our rapidly aging nation, we must plan to ensure resilience for the country's oldest residents. Fortunately, solutions that meet the needs of older adults also benefit people of all ages. For example, programs that support seniors in weatherizing their homes can bring down cooling costs and deliver a more resilient housing stock. Bus shelters with shading and seating can make public transit feasible for older adults on hot days—and serve people of any age who can't afford to or are unable to drive.

And help for older adults to both understand and access more energy-efficient technology (like heat pumps) and renewable energy solutions can relieve pressure on the electric grid during peak operations, helping to avoid blackouts and secure a more stable energy supply for all customers.

Our demographic future is clear, and the "new normal" of climate change has arrived. All Americans will be better served if we take steps now to prepare. We owe it to the older adults we love—and to ourselves, as we age—to ensure more comfort and safety in the face of a changing climate.

Danielle Arigoni is a community planning and climate resilience expert. She currently serves as the managing director for Policy and Solutions at National Housing Trust, and is author of the forthcoming book, Climate Resilience for an Aging Nation *(Island Press, October 24, 2023).*

SPEAKER

From page 10

agenda that can't be amended.

Gaetz doesn't like the $33 trillion national debt, but that's hardly the doing of Kevin McCarthy.

One of few members who was absent yesterday and unable to vote was Nancy Pelosi, the former speaker, who masterfully managed a majority the same size as McCarthy's, but had many victories for her party and now carries the title of speaker emerita. Fellow Californian McCarthy is now also a former speaker, but don't think that he's earned the same title.

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ADVANCING

From page 10

groups, and government agencies across the nation conduct events, workshops, and outreach programs to educate the public about disability employment issues and promote a more inclusive workforce."

Furthermore, he reminded everyone that just two days prior to the proclamation ceremony, "we celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. On Sept. 26, 1973, this important law was passed to ensure that people with disabilities have equal opportunities and access to various aspects of life, just like everyone else. Before this law, life was often much harder for people with disabilities. They faced discrimination, and it was tough to get an education or a good job. Imagine a world where some doors are open to you, but others are closed simply because of who you are or the challenges you face."

"Fundamentally," he said, "this law is all about ensuring that people with disabilities are not left behind, that they have the same opportunities as everyone else. It is about removing barriers and opening doors."

A timely note in the proclamation reads that, "Welcoming the talents of all people, including people with disabilities, is a critical part of our efforts to build an inclusive community and strong economy." Still, employment of people with disabilities is not commonplace for a variety of factors; unfortunately, in many cases due simply to a lack of will or preconceived notions about people with disabilities from employers. Despite the countless examples of people with disabilities being excellent employees, they still have to contend with prejudice and discrimination often due to perceived inabilities regardless of their actual abilities.

As of August 2023 the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reports the unemployment rate for people with disabilities at 7.9% versus 3.8% for their non-disabled peers—more than double. Locally, of 193 individuals who sought VR services in fiscal year 2023, only 31 were or have been employed—somewhere around 16%. For emphasis, that's just people with disabilities who sought and were deemed eligible for VR services this past fiscal year.

The point being that anything any of us can do to incentivize employers or entice them to think twice before dismissing the possibility of hiring someone with a disability would be welcomed—everyone should be an advocate!

Our Disability Network Partners stand in solidarity around the common mission of helping all people with disabilities to achieve their employment goals, live independent lives as contributing members of our community and in support of their general quest for life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Though much has been done and we have come a long way, there is still much more to be done.

In the heartfelt words of our lieutenant governor, "Nobody should be singled out from enjoying all the great resources that God has given us. …All the resources we find and use on this earth (including love, protection and care) should be shared among all. Thank you all for keeping the work and purpose that you serve going."

For more on NDEAM or the CNMI's Disability Network Partners, please contact the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation under the Office of the Governor at (670) 322-6537/8 or contact us online at www.ovrgov.net.

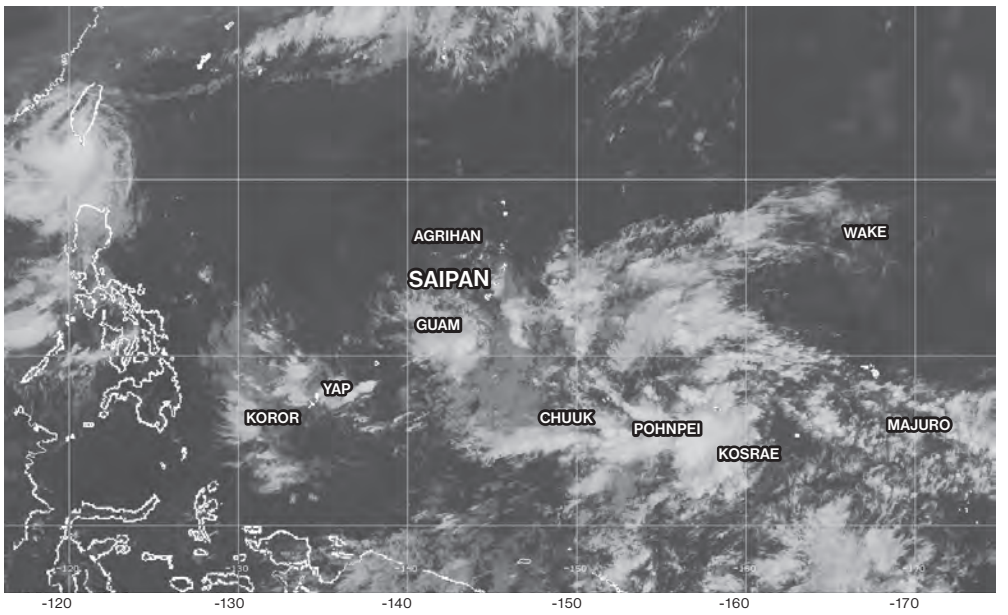
Jim Rayphand ts the director of the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation and is a former executive director of the Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems Inc.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly sunny with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Southeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly sunny with a 40 percent chance of showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of showers.	Breezy. Mostly cloudy. A 30 percent chance of showers.	Breezy. Partly sunny with a 40 percent chance of showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.
87º / 79º	86º / 79º	86º / 79º	86º / 79º	86º / 79º

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:47 AM, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2023

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Seas continue to hover near 6 feet. Radar imagery shows widespread heavier rainfall near Guam is on a downward trend, at least for now. It also shows increasing shower development from near Rota northward, which visible satellite imagery also confirms. The water temperature at the Ipan buoy is 86 degrees.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: https://www.weather.gov/gum/

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorm	86° / 77°
Palau	Thunderstorm	86° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorm	85° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	87° / 81°
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	87° / 77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	88° / 77°
Majuro	Thunderstorm	85° / 80°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:07 AM	6:03 PM
Saturday	6:07 AM	6:02 PM
Sunday	6:07 AM	6:01 PM
Monday	6:07 AM	6:01 PM
Tuesday	6:07 AM	6:00 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	12:24 PM	11:43 PM
Saturday	-	1:16 PM	-
Sunday	12:37 AM	2:02 PM	-
Monday	1:30 AM	2:44 PM	-
Tuesday	2:20 AM	3:23 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	59° / 52°
Beijing	Rain	55° / 45°
Hong Kong	Sunny	90° / 79°
Honolulu	Windy	87° / 77°
London	Cloudy	61° / 54°
Los Angeles	Sunny	79° / 59°
Manila	Thunderstorm	88° / 77°
Melbourne	Showers	59° / 48°
Miami	Thunderstorm	85° / 78°
New York	Showers	60° / 59°
Osaka	c	82° / 70°
Paris	Cloudy	61° / 52°
Busan	Sunny	81° / 66°
Rome	Partly Cloudy	75° / 50°
Salem	Mostly Sunny	97° / 70°
San Francisco	Windy	62° / 50°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	81° / 61°
Tokyo	Thunderstorm	82° / 70°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	81° / 67°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY	FEET	
6:46 AM	Low Tide	0.01
3:00 PM	High Tide	1.64
8:19 PM	Low Tide	1.32
11:32 PM	High Tide	1.44

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 1, 2023

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	7:25AM	9:55AM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:20PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/703	4:20AM	10:35PM	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

7C3467	3:00AM	6:40AM	Daily up to Oct 7
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily
OZ626	4:20AM	7:55AM	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:20AM	6:30AM	1, 4, 5, 7

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	9:25PM	1:50AM+1	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	10:25PM	4:25AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:10AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
UA184	11:50PM	5:50AM+1	2, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ702/625	12:05PM	2:55AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7
UA184/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA192/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
OZ625	9:25PM	2:55AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3468	7:35PM	1:10AM+1	Daily up to Oct 7
7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:35PM	2:20AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
3103	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

Mayor's office commemorates donation of JFK monument to CLI

The Saipan Mayor's Office, with the partnership of Kautz Glass and Hawaiian Rock, recently refurbished and redesigned the monument of the late President John F. Kennedy to the Center for Living Independently as an addition to their new facility on Capital Hill.

President Kennedy was instrumental in creating a fair and equal society for all citizens, including those with developmental disabilities.

To commemorate this event the Saipan Mayor's Office prepared letter packets each containing a letter, a photo of the monument, and a photo of the monument's plate inscription.

The letter packets were sent to President Joe Biden, the Kennedy Family and Foundation, and Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP), respectively.

The following are excerpts from the three letters:

■ Letter addressed to the JFK Foundation and Kennedy Family. "One figure who epitomizes these American virtues, particularly in the eyes of our predominantly Catholic community, is the late President John Fitzgerald Kennedy. President Kennedy, a trailblazer in various realms, holds a special place in our hearts. He not only broke barriers as the nation's first Catholic President but also championed the cause of equality for all Revised: February 2023 Americans, with a particular focus on our fellow citizens living with disabilities who needed extra support during a time when they faced exclusion from mainstream society."

■ Letter addressed to President Biden. "Furthermore, President Kennedy's unwavering commitment to the equality of all Americans, especially our fellow citizens living with disabilities, is a testament to his dedication to the principles of justice and inclusivity. During an era when those with disabilities were often marginalized by mainstream society, President Kennedy's advocacy led to the historic signing of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act on Oct. 31, 1963."

■ Letter addressed to Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (D-MP) "I am pleased to share with you that here on Saipan, our Center for Living Independence has been diligently working to support fellow citizens living with disabilities.

Today, Oct. 6, 2023, CLI will host a ribbon-cutting ceremony to inaugurate its new facility on Saipan. As a central feature of this new facility, my office has proudly donated a monument of President Kennedy.

This monument serves as a tribute to his monumental contributions to creating a more equal and just society. Attached to this letter, you will find a photograph of the monument as well as an image of the plate inscription.

"I had the privilege to witness the proclamation signing of the 2023 Developmental Disabilities Awareness month and the Saipan Champions of Equal Opportunity. During the proclamation celebration, I was moved by the speeches specially to learn that on 1963, the late President John F. Kennedy signed the Maternal and Child Health and Mental Retardation Planning Amendment to the Social Security Act, now known as the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and the Bill of Rights Act. This was what prompted me to find the statue of President John F. Kennedy as I've learned it was once erected in front of the Mount Carmel Cathedral," said Mayor Ramon "RB" Camacho.

For any questions or more information, contact the Saipan Mayor's Office at (670) 234- 6208 or visit our website at https://saipanmayor.cnmi.gov. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 7:30am to 4:30pm. The Saipan Mayor's Office is also open through lunch. ***(PR)***

RENEWED COMMITMENT CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios was in Washington, D.C. last month at the invitation of the White House to the attend the U.S.-Pacific Islands Forum Summit, which included a series of meetings and activities at the White House and at the U.S. Department of State, where Palacios also met up with Republic of Palau President Surangel Whipps Jr. During the summit, attended by Pacific Island leaders, President Biden renewed his commitment to enhancing the U.S. partnership with the Pacific Islands and to achieving a shared vision for a resilient Pacific. Biden also announced a new slate of activities and funding opportunities for the Pacific Islands communities.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM, OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
Tel: (670) 664-2371 | Fax: (670) 664-2408 | Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950

ADDENDUM NO. 1
RFP23-GOV-42300099

"DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM REPLACEMENT"

The following changes to this Request for Proposal have been approved by the Acting Director of Procurement Services:

• For bidders within the CNMI, **one (1) original, one (1) hard copy, and one (1) flash drive** containing a digital copy of sealed bids must be submitted to the Acting Director of Procurement Services located at Bldg No. 12552, Anatahan Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan no later than **9:00 A.M. ChST, October 13, 2023.**

• For bidders located outside the CNMI, **one (1) original, one (1) hard copy, and one (1) flash drive** containing a digital copy of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **9:00 A.M. ChST, October 13, 2023** and mailed to the Acting Director of Procurement Services at P.O. Box 10008 C.K., Saipan, MP, 96950, and must be received no later than **October 24, 2023**. Failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid. Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement Services located at Bldg No. 12552, Anatahan Drive, Capitol Hill on Saipan at **9:00 A.M. ChST, October 25, 2023.** However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **9:00 A.M. ChST, October 13, 2023.**

Please note: All other requirements stated in the Request for Proposal shall remain as stated.

The provisions of the CNMI Procurement Regulations, NMIAC Section 70-30.3-725 and 70.30.3-730 prohibiting Gratuities, Kickbacks, and Contingent Fees shall apply.

The CNMI Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids or portions thereof, and waive any immaterial defects if to do so would be in the best interest of the CNMI Government.

/S/ Arnold I. Palacios
Governor, CNMI

/S/ Brien S. Nicholas Jr., Acting Director
CNMI Procurement Services

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION FOR BID

PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-006-23
SUBMISSION DATE: OCTOBER 11, 2023: 2:00 P.M.

"CONSTRUCTION OF TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT SIGN"

THE BID PACKAGE IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP AT THE COMMONWONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) ACCOUNTING OFFICE, 2ND FLOOR, DEPARTURE BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 08, 2023. AN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE OF $50.00 SHALL BE PAID TO CPA BEFORE A BIDDER MAY OBTAIN THE BID PACKAGE. PAYMENTS SHALL BE IN CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK, OR CREDIT CARD.

BIDDERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND TWO (2) COPIES IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED "CONSTRUCTION OF TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT SIGN (IFB-006-23)" TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON OR BEFORE 2:00 P.M., OCTOBER 11, 2023. BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATIONS ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION §40-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO DATE: _____
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

OPENING DATE: October 06, 2023 **CLOSING DATE: October 23, 2023 TIME: 4:00 P.M.**

NMHC JVA No.	Positions:	Salary
2023-022	1-CDBG-DR Housing Grant Specialist-Saipan	$25,000.00-$30,000.00- per annum- UNGRADED
2023-023	4- Homeowner Assistance Fund (HAF) Program Administrative Specialist	$25,000.00- per annum- UNGRADED

Employment application form, detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be accessed at www.nmhcgov.net or www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com.

Applicants may submit their applications through the following options: Submission at the at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan; or at the Drop Box located in front of the NMHC Central Office building; or email application and documents to officemanager@nmhcgov.net.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager, at (670) 234-6866/9447or by email to officemanager@nmhcgov.net . NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/
JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION FOR BID

ROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-013-23
SUBMISSION DATE: OCTOBER 06, 2023: 2:00 P.M.

"SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF RUNWAY PAINT AND GLASS BEADS"

THE BID PACKAGE IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP AT THE COMMONWONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) ACCOUNTING OFFICE, 2ND FLOOR, DEPARTURE BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 01, 2023. AN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE OF $100.00 SHALL BE PAID TO CPA BEFORE A BIDDER MAY OBTAIN THE BID PACKAGE. PAYMENTS SHALL BE IN CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK, OR CREDIT CARD.

BIDDERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND TWO (2) COPIES IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED "SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF RUNWAY PAINT AND GLASS BEADS **(IFB-013-23)**" TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON OR BEFORE 2:00 P.M., OCTOBER 06, 2023. BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATIONS ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION §40-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO Date: _____
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2nd Floor Arrival Bldg.
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 |
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
Website: www.cnmiports.com

NOTICE OF INVITATION FOR BID ADVERTISING CONCESSION AT THE FRANCISCO MANGLONA BORJA/TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Project No.: CPA-IFB-005-23
CPA Concession No.: TAD-2023-01-02

Notice is hereby given that the Commonwealth Ports Authority (the "CPA") is accepting sealed bids, subject to the terms and conditions of the Invitation for Bid (the "IFB"), and other contract provisions, for bids from firms, companies, and/or corporations for Advertising Opportunities at the Francisco Manglona Borja/Tinian International Airport.

The IFB will be issued and available for pick-up beginning September 27, 2023, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, at the Administration Office, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport or at the CPA Office located at the Francisco Manglona Borja/ Tinian International Airport. CPA offices are closed every other Monday beginning Monday, October 2, 2023 for austerity reasons and also on holidays. The IFB includes layouts of the advertisement area and other requirements. All responses to this IFB shall also take into account any and/or all costs that will be charged to the bidder awarded the contract for the project. Prospective bidders will be required to pay an administrative fee of $100.00 for costs associated with handling and consideration of the bid.

Questions and/or clarification concerning this project shall be in writing and sent to the attention of the Tinian Port Manager, Antonio L. Borja through email at alborja@cnmiports.com with copy to Joy Ann Tenorio at joy.tenorio@cnmiports.com no later than October 11, 2023.

All bids shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "INVITATION FOR BID SUBMISSION: CONFIDENTIAL, ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY CPA-IFB-005-23." One (1) original and two (2) copies of the bid must be submitted no later than 2:00 p.m. Chamorro Standard Time, October 31, 2023, to the Authority Administration Section, Office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport.

Bids will be opened on October 31, 2023, at 3:00p.m. at the Commonwealth Ports Authority Meeting Room, Saipan International Airport. Bids are not required to include a prepaid minimum concession fee. The concessions are for the right to advertise at certain designated locations within the Francisco Manglona Borja/Tinian International Airport for a period of two (2) years and requires the concessionaire to operate such concession to the satisfaction of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so, would be in CPA's best interest. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest. All bids shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

9/25/2023
Date

FBI Honolulu-Guam warns of new financial scam

TAMUNING, Guam—FBI Honolulu-Guam Resident Agency is warning the public of a new scam dubbed "The Phantom Hacker." Scammers are impersonating technology, banking, and government officials in a complex ruse to convince a typically older victim that foreign hackers have infiltrated their financial account. The scammers then instruct the victim to immediately move their money to an alleged U.S. government account to "protect" their assets. In reality, there was never any foreign hacker, and the money is now fully controlled by the scammers. Some victims are losing their entire life savings.

"These scammers are cold and calculated. They are targeting older members of our community who are particularly mindful of potential risks to their financial nest eggs. The criminals are using the victims' own attentiveness against them," said special agent in charge Steven Merrill. "By educating the public about this alarming new scam, we hope to get ahead of these scammers and prevent any further victimization."

How it works

The FBI has observed repeated behavior by criminals involved in "The Phantom Hacker" scam. The ruse is often perpetrated in three major steps:

Step 1-tech support impostor

In the first step, a scammer posing as customer support representative from a legitimate technology company initiates contact with the victim through a phone call, text, email, or a pop-up window on their computer and instructs the victim to call a number for "assistance."

Once the victim calls the phone number, a scammer directs the victim to download a software program allowing the scammer remote access to the victim's computer. The scammer pretends to run a virus scan on the victim's computer and falsely claims the victim's computer either has been or is at risk of being hacked.

Next, the scammer requests the victim to open their financial accounts to determine whether there have been any unauthorized charges—a tactic to allow the scammer to determine which financial account is most lucrative for targeting. The scammer informs the victim they will receive a call from that financial institution's fraud department with further instructions.

Step 2-financial institution impostor

In the second step, a scammer, posing as a representative of the financial institution mentioned above, such as a bank or a brokerage firm, contacts the victim. The scammer falsely informs the victim their computer and financial accounts have been accessed by a foreign hacker and the victim must move their money to a "safe" third-party account, such as an account with the Federal Reserve or another U.S. government agency.

The victim is directed to transfer money via a wire transfer, cash, or wire conversion to cryptocurrency, often directly to overseas recipients. The victim is also told not to inform anyone of the real reason they are moving their money. The scammer may instruct the victim to send multiple transactions over a span of days or months.

Step 3-US government impostor

In the third step, the victim may be contacted by a scammer posing as the Federal Reserve or another U.S. government agency. If the victim becomes suspicious, the scammer may send an email or a letter on what appears to be official U.S. Government letterhead to legitimize the scam. The scammer will continue to emphasize the victim's funds are "unsafe" and they must be moved to a new "alias" account for protection until the victim concedes.

Victims often suffer the loss of entire banking, savings, retirement, and investment accounts under the guise of "protecting" their assets.

Tips to protect yourself

The FBI recommends that the public take the following steps to protect themselves from "The Phantom Hacker" scam:

- Do not click on unsolicited pop-ups, links sent via text messages, or email links or attachments.
- Do not contact the telephone number provided in a pop-up, text, or email.
- Do not download software at the request of an unknown individual who contacted you.
- Do not allow an unknown individual who contacted you to have control of your computer.
- The US Government will never request you send money to them via wire transfer, cryptocurrency, or gift/prepaid cards.

Reporting suspected fraud

The FBI requests victims report these fraudulent or suspicious activities to the FBI Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) at www.ic3.gov. Be sure to include as much information as possible, such as:

- The name of the person or company that contacted you.
- Methods of communication used, to include websites, emails, and telephone numbers.
- The bank account number where the funds were wired to and the recipient's name(s).

The FBI Honolulu office can be reached at (808) 566-4300 or https://www.fbi.gov/contact-us/field-offices/honolulu. ***(PR)***

Coast Guard, partners conduct search and rescue exercise off Oahu

USCG

U.S. Coast Guard Station Honolulu 45-Response Boat-medium conducting search and rescue training with partners.

HONOLULU—The U.S. Coast Guard, Honolulu Fire Department, Honolulu Ocean Safety and Lifeguard Services, and the Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources conducted a search and rescue exercise (SAREX) off Honolulu last Sept. 27, 2023.

"The exercise improved interagency cohesion between organizations and first responders with one goal in common, saving lives. Continuing to work and understand each other's capabilities is paramount in overcoming challenges that might be faced," said Petty Officer 1st Class Austin Bayless, the training petty officer for U.S. Coast Guard Station Honolulu. "We look forward to working with these agencies in the future and continuing to uphold our search and rescue posture."

The two-day exercise took place on the water and in the air off Magic Island with Coast Guard and local agencies working together to test and evaluate interagency communications, response plans, and responders' actions during a simulated scenario involving missing mariners.

During the search and rescue exercise, Oscar mannequins equipped with orange data buoy markers were deployed to simulate missing individuals in the water. Once notified of the persons in the water, multiple agencies deployed assets and coordinated a joint rescue response.

Assets involved in this SAREX:

- U.S. Coast Guard District 14 Command Center personnel
- U.S. Coast Guard Sector Honolulu Command Center personnel
- U.S. Coast Guard Station Honolulu 45-foot Response Boat-Medium crew
- U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Barbers Point Dolphin helicopter aircrew
- U.S. Navy HSM-37 helicopter aircrew
- Honolulu Fire Department's Air 1 helicopter aircrew and rescue boat crew
- Honolulu Fire Department Drone crew
- Honolulu Ocean Safety and Lifeguard Services Jet-ski operators
- Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources Jet-ski operators
- Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources rescue boat crew

Coast Guard Sector Honolulu personnel conduct joint agency SAREXs annually throughout the Hawaiian Islands. These exercises are designed to evaluate notification and response procedures, identify shortfalls in communication, and coordination of response during search and rescue incidents. Every agency provides capabilities that complement the other's efforts and bolsters the overall success of the search and rescue system. Familiarity with processes and the people involved are critical to success.

The goals of the Coast Guard search and rescue program are to minimize loss of life, injury, and property loss and damage in the maritime environment, minimize the risk to responders, optimize the use of resources, and remain a world leader in maritime search and readiness subject matter expertise and effectiveness. ***(PR)***

Mawar debris cleanup finishes in 3 additional villages

GUAM—The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers debris removal mission moves forward as contractors completed cleanup from residential rights of way in the villages of Agana Heights, Hagåtña and Dededo.

The USACE mission conducts separation and removal of eligible typhoon related debris from residential properties. Teams go street by street through each village collecting everything from construction and demolition waste to vegetative debris from ROWs until the entire village has been cleared.

Debris operations are currently ongoing in the following villages:

- Agat (Hågat)
- Barrigada
- Chalan Pago-Ordot
- Mangilao
- Mongmong-Toto-Maite
- Yigo
- Yona

Once USACE contractors have made their rounds through a village, the local mayor is contacted and tours the village to ensure debris pick-up has been completed.

Debris operations have been completed in the following villages:

- Piti
- Asan (Asan-Maina)
- Sinajana
- Santa Rita (Santa Rita-Sumai)
- Umatac (Humåtak)
- Merizo (Malesso')
- Tamuning
- Talofofo (Talo'fo'fo)
- Inarajan (Inalåhan)
- Agana Heights
- Agana (Hagåtña)
- Dededo

Now that local mayors have signed off on debris removal in these 12 villages, USACE asks that any remaining debris including ineligible and hazardous waste be disposed of properly and not be set in the ROW.

Areas that have been cleared continue to see debris being dumped by residents. Any new debris remaining after an area has been completed will be the resident's responsibility to dispose of.

Certain forms of ineligible debris may be taken to one of the three Guam Solid Waste Authority residential transfer stations in Harmon, Hagåt, and Malojloj. Transfer station operation hours are Thursday through Monday from 9am to 5pm. A nominal fee is required for disposal of household trash.

Residents are urged to dispose of their solid waste properly. Illegal dumping is a violation of Guam law. In accordance with 10 GCA §51115(b), illegal dumping is subject to fines of up to $1,000 per day, per violation, along with the cleanup cost associated with the violation.

To view the Debris Mission Dashboard detailing current debris mission operations visit Guam Debris Mission DR4715-Dashboard (PUBLIC) (arcgis.com)

For an FAQ answering common questions about the debris mission visit: U.S. Army Corp of Engineers Debris Mission FAQ | FEMA.gov

For more information on proper debris separation visit Debris Removal Guidelines for Residential Property (fema.gov)

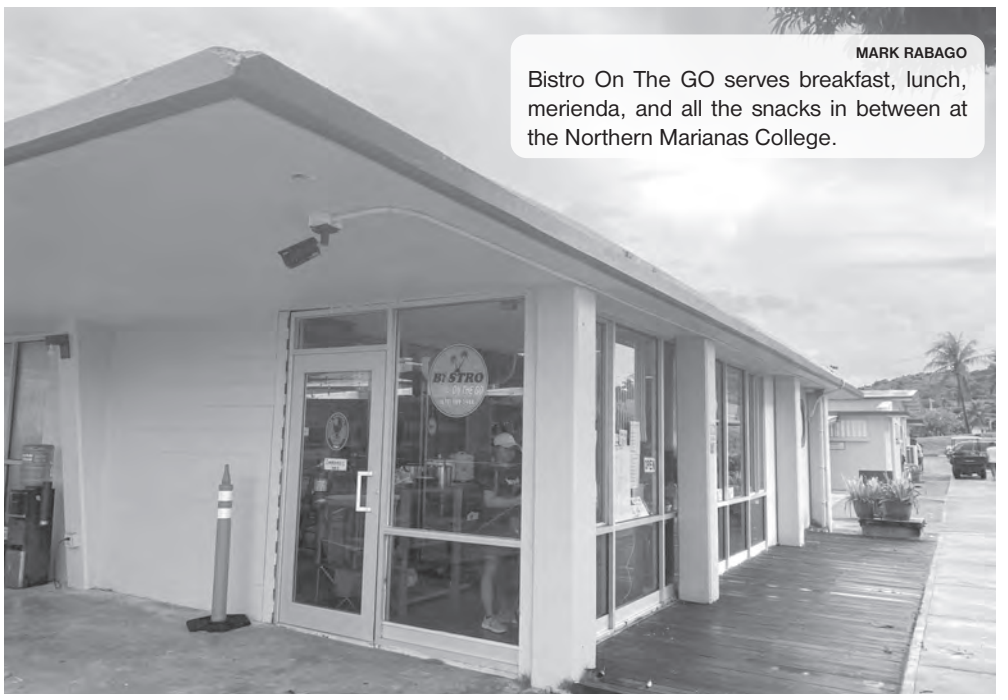
Visit the following links for the latest information:

- Governor's Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/govlouguam
- GHS/OCD Website: https://ghs.guam.gov/
- GHS/OCD Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/GHSOCD/

For more information, contact the Joint Information Center at (671) 478-0208. ***(PR)***

Business

Bistro On The Go opens at NMC



MARK RABAGO
Bistro On The GO serves breakfast, lunch, merienda, and all the snacks in between at the Northern Marianas College.

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Students and faculty at Northern Marianas College in Fina Sisu no longer have to go off-campus to get their meals.

This, after Bistro Marianas Restaurant and Bar in Garapan expanded its service inside the NMC Saipan campus with the soft-opening of the aptly named Bistro On The GO last Sept. 15.

Owner Reynaldo Faustino said their newest business venture is a café and snack bar that serves breakfast, lunch, merienda, and all the snacks in between.

Normally, students, faculty, and other employees of the CNMI's lone community college have to walk or drive to nearby and sometimes far restaurants to grab a meal or snack to eat.

With the opening of Bistro On The GO, Faustino said, now they don't have to.

"We have coffee, smoothies, halo-halo, sandwiches, sushi, turon, lumpia, soup (arroz caldo, sopas, clam chowder, cream of broccoli, etc.). We also have one-choice or two-choice breakfast and lunch, and a lot more," he said.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Bistro On The GO is open from Monday to Friday, 7am-3pm, and Saturday, 7am-12pm.

Faustino said since opening, Bistro On The Go has seen steady sales thanks to the overwhelming support of the NMC community.

"Business is doing fine and everyone is happy and accommodating. Students have a small patio in front of our snack bar where they can eat. It's breezy and just beside the library," he said.

Bistro On The GO is open from Monday to Friday, 7am-3pm, and Saturday, 7am-12pm. For now, the snack bar only accepts cash and PayPal. Soon, Faustino said, they will also accept credit cards.

The businessman thanked NMC for the opportunity to open a snack bar in their campus and serve the students, faculty, and employees of the institution.

"We would like to thank the administrators of Northern Marianas College for this opportunity. We will do our best to provide good food to our customers," he said.

Bistro On the GO is located on Building O, Mango Terrace inside the NMC campus. For more information, call (670) 989-1944.

Striking auto workers, Detroit companies appear to make progress in contract talks

DETROIT (AP)—Meaningful progress has been made in negotiations between the striking United Auto Workers union and Detroit's three auto companies, according to a person with direct knowledge of the talks.

The person said Wednesday that progress was reported at all three companies, with some offers being exchanged. Another said there was more movement in talks with Jeep maker Stellantis, with less at Ford and General Motors. Neither person wanted to be identified because they aren't authorized to speak publicly about the bargaining.

Union President Shawn Fain will update members Friday on bargaining toward bringing to an end the nearly 3-week-old strikes against the companies.

It wasn't clear exactly what Fain will announce as part of the union's strategy of targeted strikes against the companies, with automakers perceived as making progress in the talks being spared additional job actions.

But the report of progress raises the possibility that the union may decide not to expand its walkouts at one or more of the companies. The union has so far limited the strike to about 25,000 workers at five vehicle assembly plants and 38 parts warehouses. Fain has announced strike expansions on each of the past two Fridays.

Ford said Tuesday that it increased its offer to the union on Monday night, but provisions made public by the company were close to previous offers. The company said its seventh offer raised the general wage increase to over 20% over four years without compounding. It also said the company raised its 401(k) retirement contributions and confirmed profit sharing was offered to temporary workers. Those workers also would see a pay raise from $16.67 per hour to $21.

Nation

McCarthy's ouster could cost GOP best fundraiser

WASHINGTON (AP)—Kevin McCarthy spent years raising mountains of Republican campaign cash, flying around the country to recruit top candidates in key districts and painstakingly building political relationships as he worked his way toward becoming speaker of the House.

Now that he's been ousted from the post after less than nine months, some in the GOP are wondering if anyone can take his place as a fundraising dynamo and party builder.

The House isn't scheduled to vote on who could replace McCarthy until at least next week with all legislative work suspended as the chamber navigates a situation never before seen in the nation's history. In the meantime, House Republicans have no clear leader heading into next year's election as they cling to a razor-thin majority.

"Nobody can raise money like him," said Rep. Kelly Armstrong, R-N.D. "And no matter who is the next speaker of the House, none of them can do what Kevin McCarthy did."

The National Republican Congressional Committee, the GOP's House campaign arm, postponed its upcoming fall gala in Dallas that McCarthy was supposed to headline. The committee said McCarthy helped it raise more than $40 million during the last election cycle and $20-plus million so far this cycle.

The totals were even higher for a McCarthy-aligned super PAC, the Congressional Leadership Fund, which said that it and its associated nonprofits had raised about $645 million under McCarthy. That included about $215 million for the 2020 election, roughly $350 million during last year's midterm races and around $80 million so far this cycle.

The leadership fund will shift its alignment to follow the new House speaker once one is elected. Paul Ryan replaced fellow Republican John Boehner in 2015. The GOP retained House control the following year when Donald Trump was elected president.

"Speaker McCarthy has fundamentally altered House elections for Republicans through his recruitment efforts, his unmatched fundraising prowess, and his ability to inspire and generate confidence among donors," Congressional Leadership Fund President Dan Conston said in a statement. "While this is an obvious loss for the House, CLF remains laser-focused on our mission of holding radical Democrats accountable, protecting our vulnerable incumbents, and expanding the House Republican majority."

As speaker and in his prior years leading the Republicans in the minority, McCarthy was viewed by many as less of a legislator and more of a political tactician who found strong Republican candidates and raised enough money to get them elected and to bolster the national party.

McCarthy visiting a district could often be a major draw, juicing fundraiser proceeds, though that's a role any new House speaker can grow into.

A bigger test for the next speaker is whether they will be able to raise the same kind of sums as McCarthy for the party's outside groups, which every year pour millions of dollars into advertising in key races, unburdened by contribution limits for individual campaigns.

"That's where McCarthy has crushed it," said Cam Savage, a longtime Republican strategist who works on House races. "He did the heavy lifting for the Congressional Leadership Fund."

Trump's intensifying rhetoric offers an insight into how he might govern again

Over the past two weeks, Donald Trump said shoplifters should be immediately shot, suggested the United States' top general be executed and mocked a political opponent's husband who was beaten with a hammer.

The former president and current front-runner for the Republican presidential nomination also in recent weeks encouraged the impeachment of Democratic President Joe Biden because the "lowlifes Impeached me TWICE," urged his party to shut down the U.S. government with the hope it would stall some of the criminal cases he faces, and said that, if elected to the White House again, he would threaten NBC News and MSNBC's access to the airwaves over news coverage of him that he called "Country Threatening Treason."

From his earliest days in public life as a New York real estate tycoon, Trump has favored language that makes him appear tough and scrappy, particularly when it comes to crime and retribution for his perceived enemies. But the rhetorical escalation on display in recent weeks is notable for its parallels to the hardline approaches that are hallmarks of authoritarian regimes that he has occasionally praised, such as the rule of Russian President Vladimir Putin or North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un.

"Violence is his political project now," said Ruth Ben-Ghiat, a historian at New York University. "It is the thing, besides his own victimhood, that he brings up the most."

Author of a book called "Strongmen," Ben-Ghiat contends that Trump fits well in the category. His recent statements on shooting shoplifters, for example, call to mind strongman leaders he has previously praised such as former Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte, whose war on drugs featured "extrajudicial killings" of thousands of suspects without a trial, or other countries where military leaders disappear after falling out of favor with the regime.

Trump already has a nearly decade-long record of making inflammatory, violent statements, often without follow-through.

He has mulled shooting illegal border crossers in the legs and offered to pay the legal fees of people who roughed up protesters that disrupted his 2016 campaign rallies.

Trump's words also can rile up his supporters and have direct consequences, most glaringly in the case of Jan. 6, 2021, when his lies about his 2020 election loss revved up a mass of supporters who attacked the U.S. Capitol in a failed effort to prevent Congress from certifying Biden's presidential victory.

They can also rile up Trump's own party, which then incorporates the former president's vendettas and impulses into its own agenda. ***(AP)***

World

PH boats breach Chinese coast guard blockade

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Two Philippine supply boats breached a Chinese coast guard blockade in the South China Sea on Wednesday in a recurring confrontation near a disputed shoal some fear could spark a larger security crisis that could draw in the United States.

Two Philippine coast guard ships escorted the smaller supply boats, but it wasn't immediately clear whether the ships were blocked by the Chinese coast guard from coming closer to the Second Thomas Shoal, where a small contingent of Filipino marines has stood guard for years aboard a long-marooned but still actively commissioned warship, the BRP Sierra Madre.

China also claims the shoal and has surrounded it with its coast guard ships and militia vessels to prevent the Philippines from delivering construction materials that Beijing fears could be used to reinforce the Sierra Madre and turn it into a permanent territorial outpost.

"Despite attempts by a significant number of China coast guard and Chinese maritime militia vessels to block, harass, and interfere with the routine rotation and resupply mission," the two Philippine boats managed to deliver provisions to the Filipino forces at the shoal, a Philippine government body overseeing the disputed waters said in a statement late Wednesday.

"The Philippines' resupply missions and maintenance of BRP Sierra Madre are part of regular operations in line with domestic and international law and ensures safety and well-being of our stationed personnel," the inter-agency body said.

It didn't provide other details of the Chinese coast guard's actions, which it has condemned in the past as dangerous maneuvers that have nearly caused collisions. and violated international safety regulations at sea.

The Chinese coast guard said in a statement Wednesday night that the Philippine vessels entered the waters "without permission from the Chinese government" and that "China firmly opposes the Philippines illegally transporting building materials to the 'grounded' military boat." It said it gave a stern warning to the Philippines vessels and monitored them throughout the process.

The dangerous confrontation on Wednesday is the latest flare-up from the long-simmering territorial disputes in the South China Sea, one of the world's busiest trade routes. The conflicts, which involve China, the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Taiwan and Brunei, are regarded as a potential Asian flashpoint and have also become a delicate fault line in the U.S.-China rivalry in the region.

In early August, a Chinese coast guard ship used a water cannon against one of two Philippine supply boats to prevent it from approaching the Second Thomas Shoal. The brazen move, which was caught on video, outraged President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. and prompted the Department of Foreign Affairs in Manila to summon the Chinese ambassador to hand a strongly worded protest.

Washington reacted by renewing a warning that it's obligated to defend the Philippines, its oldest treaty ally in Asia, if Filipino forces, aircraft and vessels come under an armed attack, including in the South China Sea.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry accused Washington then of "threatening China" by raising the possibility of the U.S.-Philippines mutual defense treaty being activated. Beijing has repeatedly warned the U.S. not to meddle in the territorial disputes.

Later in August, the Philippines again deployed two boats, which succeeded in maneuvering past the Chinese coast guard blockade and completing the delivery of supplies to the Filipino forces at the Second Thomas shoal. Two Philippine coast guard ships securing the supply boats, however, were blocked and prevented by Chinese coast guard ships from maneuvering closer to the shoal.

A U.S. Navy surveillance aircraft flew in circles in support of the Philippine vessels as the standoff lasted for more than three hours.

Philippine Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro expressed concern over China's dangerous actions at sea and said the government was ready to respond to potential emergencies, including a possible collision of Chinese and Philippine ships in the disputed waters.

"Naturally the concern is always there, and we take that into account," Teodoro said in response to a reporter's question Tuesday night. "We have plans depending on what happens."

Russia says it has foiled a major Ukraine drone attack

Russian air defenses shot down 31 Ukrainian drones during a concerted nighttime attack by Kyiv's forces on border regions, the Russian Defense Ministry said Wednesday, as uncertainty grew over Ukraine's future access to weapons and ammunition from Western allies.

The drone attack appeared to be Kyiv's largest single cross-border drone assault reported by Moscow since the Kremlin launched its invasion 20 months ago. There were no immediate reports of damage or casualties.

Ukraine is pressing on with the slow-moving counteroffensive it launched three months ago to expel Russian invaders, though mounting concerns about replenishing its military stocks and cracks in the Western wall of support cast a cloud over the effort.

Adm. Rob Bauer, the head of NATO's military committee, sounded the alarm about depleted stockpiles.

"The bottom of the barrel is now visible," Bauer said of weapons systems and ammunition supplies.

With the war of attrition likely continuing through winter into next year, Bauer urged the defense industry to boost production "at a much higher tempo. And we need large volumes," he told the Warsaw Security Forum, an annual two-day conference that continued Wednesday.

The Russian Defense Ministry did not provide any evidence for its claims about intercepting Ukrainian drones.

It also said Russian aircraft thwarted a Ukrainian attempt to deploy a group of soldiers by sea to the western side of Russian-occupied Crimea. The force attempted to land on Cape Tarkhankut using a high-speed boat and three jet skis, the ministry said.

Remembering
KURI
CRISPIN IGLECIAS
DELEON GUERRERO
It has been five years since our
Beloved Kuri answered our Lord's
call into eternal life.
In his memory, we invite our relatives and
friends to join us in prayer at Saint Jude
Church beginning Monday, October 9th to
Tuesday, October 17th at 6:00 PM.
On Sunday, October 15th,
mass will be at 8:00 AM.
Si YU'US Ma'åse' Ginen i FAMILIA

WORLD BRIEFS

Flash floods kill at least 14 in northeastern India and leave more than 100 missing

NEW DELHI (AP)—Rescue workers were searching for more than 100 people on Thursday after flash floods triggered by a sudden heavy rainfall swamped several towns in northeastern India, killing at least 14 people, officials said. More than 2,000 people were rescued after Wednesday's floods, the Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority said in a statement, adding that state authorities set up 26 relief camps for more than 22,000 people impacted by the floods. The Press Trust of India news agency reported that 102 people were missing and cited state government officials saying 14 people died in the floods. Among the missing were 22 army soldiers, officials said. One soldier who had been reported missing on Wednesday was later rescued by authorities, local media reported. Some army camps and vehicles were submerged under mud following the floods.

Typhoon Koinu makes landfall in southern Taiwan

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—Typhoon Koinu swept southern Taiwan on Thursday, injuring 190 people but causing no deaths as it brought intense winds and rainstorms to the island, leading to school and office closures. Koinu, which means "puppy" in Japanese, made landfall in Cape Eluanbi, the southernmost tip of Taiwan, early Thursday and is expected to weaken as it continues to move west toward Guangdong and Fujian provinces in southern China. The typhoon brought unexpectedly strong winds as it approached Taiwan, with a gust of 343 kph (213 mph) recorded Wednesday night on the outlying Orchid Island. On Thursday morning, Koinu packed maximum sustained winds of 162 kph (101 mph) with gusts of 198 kph (123 mph), according to the weather bureau.

Off The Wall

Chicago woman, 104, skydives

DANIEL WILSEY VIA AP

This photo provided by Daniel Wilsey shows Dorothy Hoffner, 104, falling through the air with tandem jumper Derek Baxter as she becomes the oldest person in the world to skydive, Sunday, Oct. 1, 2023, at Skydive Chicago in Ottawa, Ill.

OTTAWA, Ill. (AP)—A 104-year-old Chicago woman is hoping to be certified as the oldest person to ever skydive after leaving her walker on the ground and making a tandem jump in northern Illinois.

» Aims for record as world's oldest skydiver

"Age is just a number," Dorothy Hoffner told a cheering crowd moments after touching the ground Sunday at Skydive Chicago in Ottawa, about 85 miles (140 kilometers) southwest of Chicago, the Chicago Tribune reported.

The Guinness World Record for oldest skydiver was set in May 2022 by 103-year-old Linnéa Ingegärd Larsson from Sweden. But Skydive Chicago is working to have Guinness World Records certify Hoffner's jump as a record, WLS-TV reported.

Hoffner first skydived when she was 100. On Sunday, she left her walker behind just short of the plane—a Skyvan—and was helped up the steps to join the others waiting inside to skydive.

"Let's go, let's go, Geronimo!" Hoffner said after she was finally seated.

When she first skydived, she said she had to be pushed out of the aircraft. But on Sunday, tethered to a U.S. Parachute Association-certified instructor, Hoffner insisted on leading the jump from 13,500 feet (4,100 meters).

She looked calm and confident when the plane was aloft and its aft door opened to reveal tan crop fields far below shortly before she shuffled toward the edge and leaped into the air. She tumbled out of the plane, head first, completing a perfect forward roll in the sky, before flying stable in freefall with her belly facing the ground.

The dive lasted seven minutes, including her parachute's slow descent to the ground. Coming in to land, the wind pushed Hoffner's white hair back, she clung to the harness over her narrow shoulders, picked up her legs and plopped softly onto the grassy landing area.

Friends rushed in to share congratulations, while someone brought over Hoffner's red walker. She rose quickly and she was asked how it felt to be back on the ground.

"Wonderful," Hoffner said. "But it was wonderful up there. The whole thing was delightful, wonderful, couldn't have been better."

After her jump, Hoffner's mind quickly turned to the future and other challenges. The lifelong Chicago woman, who's set to turn 105 in December, said she might take a ride in a hot-air balloon next.

"I've never been in one of those," she said.

Missouri high school teacher put on leave after school officials find her on porn site

ST. CLAIR, Mo. (AP)—A Missouri high school teacher says she has been placed on leave after officials discovered that she was performing on a pornography website to supplement her salary.

Brianna Coppage, 28, who taught English at St. Clair High School, says her teaching days are probably over, but she acknowledged she knew the risks.

Coppage told the St. Louis Post-Dispatch that she was put on leave on Wednesday after being interviewed by two administrators. Her access to school email and other software was suspended while the district investigates, she said.

"It was kind of always like this cloud hanging over my head, like I never knew when I would be discovered," Coppage said in an interview. "Then, about two weeks ago, my husband and I were told that people were finding out about it. So I knew this day was coming."

Superintendent Kyle Kruse said in a statement that the district was "recently notified that an employee may have posted inappropriate media on one or more internet sites."

"The district has engaged legal counsel to conduct a comprehensive investigation into this matter," Kruse wrote. "Actions taken as a result of the investigation will be in accordance with board policy and with guidance from legal counsel."

St. Clair is about 55 miles (88 kilometers) southwest of St. Louis. The high school has about 750 students.

Coppage said she joined the OnlyFans website over the summer to supplement her salary as a second-year teacher. She taught English to freshmen and sophomores and made about $42,000 last year, according to the newspaper's public pay database. She said she's earned an additional $8,000 to $10,000 per month performing on OnlyFans.

Science & Technology

Sketch of Sphere becomes real

LAS VEGAS (AP)—It started as a crude sketch—a circle with a stick person inside. Seven years later, that drawing has been made real: A $2.3 billion massive spherical venue, standing 366 feet (111 meters) high and lighting up the Las Vegas skyline.

» Venue opens with U2 show in Las Vegas

The drawing was initially made by James Dolan, the executive chair of Madison Square Garden and owner of the New York Knicks and Rangers. He and MSG Ventures CEO David Dibble were trying to create a plan to give the entertainment venue industry a facelift in Las Vegas.

Both experimented with different shapes for the structure—such as a muffin, a box and even a pyramid—until Dolan drew the circle and stick person on a notebook. At that moment, the Sphere was born.

Now, Dolan's vision will come to fruition when U2's "UV Achtung Baby" residency kicks off the opening of his high-tech, globe-shaped venue Friday night.

"It really is a new medium," said Dolan, speaking to the media during a walk-through Thursday. "When you're in the Sphere, you don't get told what to look at. The audience decides what they want to focus on."

Inside the 516-foot-wide (157-meter-wide) Sphere, a high-resolution LED screen wraps halfway around the 17,500-seat audience. The venue is equipped with thousands of speakers that will deliver a "crystal-clear," multi-layered experience.

DEATH & FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

†Antonio Arriola Palacios

July 5, 1949 – September 29, 2023

Lovingly known as "Tan Ton"

In his new life, he now joins his:

Wife: †Maria Terlaje Palacios "Eang"
Parents: †Jose M. & †Lucia A. Palacios
In-Laws: †Jose & †Regina C. Terlaje
†Lantan Su/ †Wenxiu Zheng
†Guocheng Su
Siblings: †Jose A. Palacios
†Alfonso/ †Emilia P. Palacios
†Francisco Pangelinan
†Dolores/ †Joaquin Leon Guerrero
†Vicente C. Terlaje
†Jose C. Terlaje
†Rita/ †Julian Reyes
†Frank Picklesimer
†Antonia Woodworth
†Rosie/ †Mark Pangelinan
†Miguel/ †Pilar Palacios

His memories will forever live in the hearts of his:

Wife: Congxiang Su Palacios
Children: Chengsi Wang
Edward/ Renee Terlaje and family
Anthony Joseph Palacios/
Marla Dela Cruz and family
Marla Nicole/ Dreighton Palacios and family
Reared Daughter: †Soledad (Sol) Terlaje and family
Siblings/ In-laws: Lolita Palacios and Family
Ana/ Francisco Sablan and family
Maria (Mako)/ Estanislao Fujihira and family
Jesus/ Leonora Palacios and Family
Carmen/ Joey Dela Cerna and family
Eleuterio/ Erlinda Palacios and family
Maria L. Terlaje and family
Donald Woodworth and family
Annie Picklesimer and Family
Magdalena/ Mark Hazen and family
Elizabeth Terlaje and family
Yidong Su/ Yongyan Zhao and family
Xiuer Zhang and family

Our beloved †Antonio will also be remembered
by numerous uncles, aunties, nephews, nieces, cousins, and friends.

On October 7, 2023, Funeral Services will be
at San Antonio Church from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Please join us in prayer.
Thank you and Si Yu'us Ma'ase.

From the Family

Life & Style

Hula master, poet laureate among this year's MacArthur 'genius' grantees

By THALIA BEATY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

A scientist who studies the airborne transmission of diseases, a master hula dancer and cultural preservationist, and the sitting U.S. poet laureate were among the 20 new recipients of the prestigious fellowships from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, known as "genius grants," announced on Wednesday.

MacArthur fellows receive a grant of $800,000 over five years to spend however they want. Fellows are nominated and endorsed by their peers and communities through an often yearslong process that the foundation oversees. They do not apply and are never officially interviewed for the fellowship before it's awarded.

Each year, the foundation calls the new class of fellows in advance of the public announcement and fellows described being shocked and stunned by the news after receiving a call from an unknown number, which they had sometimes initially ignored.

Ada Limón, who recently began her second term as the country's poet laureate, said she first missed a call the day after her grandmother, Allamay Barker, had died at the age of 98. It wasn't until the foundation emailed her that she called back. She said she wept when she heard the news.

"I felt like losing the matriarch of my family and then receiving this, it felt like it was a gift from her in some ways," she said, speaking from her home in Lexington, Kentucky.

AP

This undated photo provided by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation shows 2023 MacArthur Fellow Ada Limón. Limon is the current U.S. poet laureate.

Limón will be reading poetry to an audience at the University of Montevallo, a public university in Alabama, and speaking to a creative writing class in the hours after this year's class of MacArthur fellows are announced.

As poet laureate, she commissioned an anthology of poems " You Are Here: Poetry in the Natural World, " to be published in April and also arranged for historic poems to be installed at seven national parks. NASA is planning to send a poem Limón wrote for an upcoming mission to Jupiter's moon Europa as part of a time capsule. The poem will be engraved on the spacecraft.

"One of the things that feels most emotional and remarkable to me is that this recognition is coming from within the poetry community," Limón said.

The foundation has run the fellowship since 1981 and selected more than 1,030 recipients. The awards are given to individuals "of outstanding talent to pursue their own creative, intellectual, and professional inclinations," according to the foundation's website, and the grants are not tied to a specific project or institution. Many past fellows like Octavia Butler, Paul Farmer and Twyla Tharp are luminaries in their fields and Marlies Carruth, who directs the MacArthur Fellows program, emphasized that they hope fellows will support and inspire each other. The foundation also hosts events for current and past recipients.

"The prize is financial, but it's also access and being part of a community of extraordinary thinkers and doers," said Carruth. Last year, the foundation raised the award amount from $625,000 to $800,000. The foundation previously increased the award amount a decade ago from $500,000 to $625,000.

The 2023 class of fellows includes Andrea Armstrong, professor at Loyola University New Orleans, College of Law, who created a database of everyone in Louisiana who has died in prison or jail since 2015; Patrick Makuakāne, a master teacher of hula who is dedicated to preserving Hawaiian cultural heritage; and National Book Award winner Imani Perry, who has authored multiple books about the resistance and activism of Black Americans in the face of injustice.

Linsey Marr, an environmental engineer, was in her office when an unknown number called her cellphone, which she did not answer. When the same number called her office line, she picked up with some skepticism, Marr said.

"To think that I've actually been selected as one is really mind-blowing," she said, of the MacArthur fellows.

Before the pandemic, Marr, who is a distinguished professor of civil and environmental engineering at Virginia Tech, studied questions about how viruses moved through the air and how much transmission happens by people breathing in the virus versus from contaminated objects.

Her expertise became extremely relevant after the outbreak of COVID-19 when she argued that airborne transmission was likely a major way the virus was spreading. She said she hopes this recognition of her work will help her gain access to data to better understand the seasonality of the flu.

Ian Bassin is the co-founder and executive director of Protect Democracy, a nonpartisan organization that helped to shape legislation passed in December 2022 to overhaul the Electoral Count Act. The changes clarify parts of the 1887 law to make it harder for future presidents to seek to prevent the transfer of power.

When he received the call from MacArthur, Bassin was standing in his kitchen and said his mind immediately went to his late grandparents, with whom he wished he could share the news. He said he sees himself as just one of a multitude of organizations and people working to create a more inclusive and resilient democratic system.

"This fellowship feels both like a tremendous opportunity, but also a responsibility because the work of protecting and perfecting our democracy is far from complete," Bassin said. "And so this just underscores for me the obligation I think I now have to do my part in finishing that work."

The other recipients of the MacArthur fellowship in 2023 are: E. Tendayi Achiume, a legal scholar examining global migration; Rina Foygel Barber, a statistician who has developed tools to improve the accuracy of predictions made by machine learning models; Courtney Bryan, a composer and pianist whose work draws on contemporary voices and crosses genres; Jason D. Buenrostro, a cellular and molecular biologist who developed new methods and tools to better understand how and when genes are expressed; multidisciplinary artist María Magdalena Campos-Pons whose work often foregrounds histories of the Caribbean; composer and artist Raven Chacon who blends performance and visual art to interrogate European colonialism of the Americas; Diana Greene Foster, a demographer and reproductive health researcher who has documented the impact of access to contraception or abortion on women's lives; Lucy Hutyra, an environmental ecologist who studies the movement of carbon through urban environments; artist Carolyn Lazard whose multidisciplinary work centers disability and accessibility; Lester Mackey, a computer scientist and statistician whose has helped improve the predictions of machine learning techniques; fiction writer Manuel Muñoz whose stories explore the experiences of the Mexican American community in California's Central Valley; Dyani White Hawk, a multidisciplinary artist who uplifts Indigenous art practices and aesthetics and their connections to contemporary art; A. Park Williams, a hydroclimatologist studying the impact of climate change on wildfires, drought and forest growth; and Amber Wutich, an anthropologist who studies the impact of water scarcity on communities and how they adapt.

Relationship with new DIL gets off to a rough start

DEAR ABBY: Right after high school, our son joined the military and left home. We are proud of him and keep in touch mostly by phone because he's stationed across the country. Since he has been away, he met a young lady on a dating website. I met her briefly on a quick visit.

I had concerns about the relationship, and I shared them with my son. She doesn't drive, works only intermittently and displayed no desire to get to know me in the short time we had for my visit. Well, they ended up getting married behind our backs a few months ago.

What's done is done. The only thing I want now is to have some kind of basic relationship with her. I have reached out multiple times, but she won't budge. I love my son and, by extension, her. I don't think I should be punished for bringing up my concerns. She refuses to communicate with me at all.

WANTING BASIC COMMUNICATION

DEAR WANTING: The only person who can fix this is the person who started it—your son. You were within your rights as a mother to voice your concerns to him. He should not have run to his (then) girlfriend and blabbed. Although you say his wife refuses to communicate, I assume that he still does. Tell him that if he would like to have a relationship with his parents, and for them to function as grandparents, he needs to start smoothing this over with his bride. The ball is now in his court.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I need advice about a friend who is constantly downcast and clinically depressed. I have tried praying for her, lifting her up and encouraging her, but to no avail. At this point, I feel like she is determined to stay this way.

Sometimes I have to distance myself for a while because seeing her is exhausting. I have known her for two years, and she's always like this. Who DOESN'T have problems?! This is life. Sometimes we're happy, sometimes we're not.

She takes it personally and starts to question our friendship if I don't call her, check on her or visit. It has become overwhelming for me. I honestly don't have the energy for her. I have my family to be concerned about.

I recently told her that sometimes she can be "a bit much," and not to take it personally if I'm not always available. I also said my focus has shifted because my kids have classes and I'm back at work. I really need some advice on what to do about her.

STRAINED FRIENDSHIP IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR STRAINED: You stated that your friend is "clinically depressed." Has she been diagnosed by a medical professional? If the answer to that question is yes, you should be telling her she needs to consult her physician because, after two years, her depression has not improved.

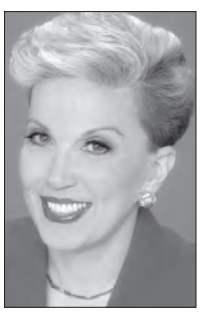
If she HASN'T been formally diagnosed, point her in that direction, which would enable her to gain access to medications and/or therapy that might help her. Do not allow her to guilt you into doing anything that's too much for you because, if you continue, your resentment will only increase.

■ ■ ■

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

MEDITATION KEEPS ME CALM AND CENTERED
WE'RE OUT OF MILK
AH, SUCH IS LIFE
AND WE'RE OUT OF COFFEE
AH, SUCH IS THE END OF THE WORLD
JIM DAVIS 10-6

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

HEY, ADAM.
HEY, TREVOR!
NICE DECORATIONS.
OH. YEAH. WE LET CLAYTON DESIGN THEM THIS YEAR.
I LIKE HOW THE ENTRAILS AND SEVERED HEADS SPELL "HAPPY HALLOWEEN."
YEAH. HE HAS A REAL KNACK.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CAN YOU BUY ME THIS DOG FOOD? THE COMMERCIAL SAYS OWNERS WHO CARE ABOUT THEIR PETS BUY THIS BRAND.
THAT'S JUST A PLOY. SHOULD WE LET A BUNCH OF MADISON AVENUE AD EXECUTIVES INSULT OUR INTELLIGENCE BY SETTING THE STANDARD OF CARE?
UH, BUT STILL...
OF COURSE NOT. LETS SHOW THEM WE WON'T BE MANIPULATED, AND PURCHASE THE CHEAP DRY-FELLEST DOG FOOD

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Satchel
4 Long hair
8 Firsties
12 GI-entertaining gp.
13 Privy to
14 "Be that — may ..."
15 Seafood soups
17 Unspoken feeling
18 Sketch
19 Pine product
20 Poker payments
22 Tart fruit
24 Pride member
25 Eat
29 Poached breakfast
30 Still in contention
31 Compete
32 Mess hall queue
34 Pre-Easter period
35 Aspiration
36 Sacks
37 Pay
40 Sister of Rachel
41 Eden evictee
42 Chinese noodle dish
46 Avoid
47 Ginormous
48 — loss
49 Teeny
50 Latin love
51 Pooch

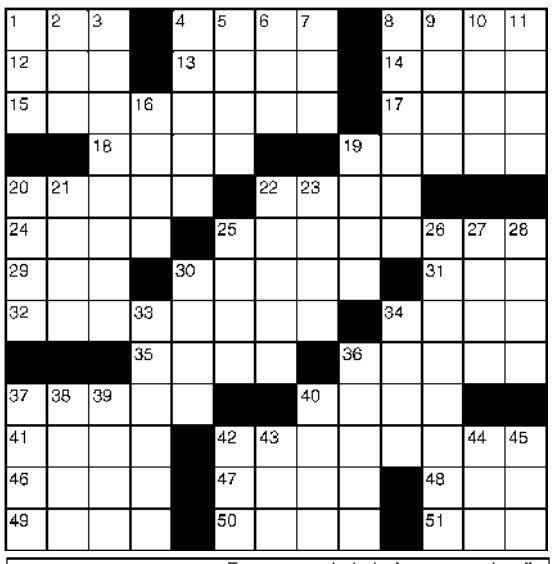
DOWN

1 Tampa Bay NFLer
2 Bat wood
3 All set
4 King with a "gilt" complex?
5 From the start
6 Fish-fowl link
7 USN rank
8 Tony-winning "Hamilton" actor Diggs
9 Egyptian deity
10 Actress Andersson
11 British gun
16 Wee songbird
19 "Dirty Jobs" host Mike
20 Sir Guinness
21 At hand
22 Glisten
23 Cupid's realm
25 Film fragment
26 Business expenses
27 Cellar supply
28 Tennis barriers
30 Oodles
33 Fanciful quality
34 Actor Neeson
36 Not as many
37 Malek of "Oppenheimer"
38 Revise
39 Chapel service
40 Corporate symbol
42 Dance syllable
43 Drone
44 Judge Lance
45 Pester

Solution time: 25 mins.

I	M	A	C		P	O	D		O	S	H	A
S	O	B	A		I	I	I		B	C	E	R
S	O	U	P		L	L	L		I	A	M	S
A	R	T	I	S	T		E	W	E	S		
			I	E	A	M	M	A	S	C	O	I
S	F	D	A	N		F	M	S		A	V	A
T	A	I	I		T	S	A		S	P	F	D
E	S	C		G	A	S		P	E	E	R	S
T	E	A	M	S	P	I	R	I	T			
		P	E	A	R		H	A	T	E	R	S
N	E	R	D		C	N	C		L	A	V	E
L	L	I	A		O	D	D		L	V	L	L
W	O	O	L		M	A	E		S	E	R	F

Yesterday's answer 10-6



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jeremy Sisto, 49; Amy Jo Johnson, 53; Elisabeth Shue, 60; Britt Ekland, 81.

Happy Birthday: Take the edge off, learn to relax and incorporate something into your routine that challenges you, stretches your imagination and satisfies your soul. Put things in perspective, address what bothers you and adjust your life. Take control of your happiness, choose not to let others interfere and take on a challenge that makes you feel good about yourself and your contributions. Let go of the past and declutter your life. Your numbers are 8, 12, 23, 27, 31, 40, 48.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Let go of situations you cannot control, and put your focus where it counts. Recap what you've accomplished and set new goals that entice you. A partnership looks inviting, but before you consider such a venture, clear up anything that may cause a problem. ✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Put everything you've got into something meaningful to you. Refuse to tie up your time with chitchat and pastimes that don't interest you. Make decisions that offer something new and exciting and bring you in contact with like-minded people. Put yourself first. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Socialize, network and explore possibilities. Listen, but verify what you hear before you agree to get involved in something time-consuming. If you make intelligent decisions, you will stifle anger and anxiety. Know what you want and pursue your dream. Self-improvement is favored. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Problems will surface if you rely on others. Don't let emotions escalate; go about your business and put effort into something you enjoy. A creative outlet will spark your imagination, encourage new beginnings and deter you from letting others take advantage of you. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Shop around; don't put everything you've got in one place. Diversity will help you avoid making costly mistakes. Use your intelligence and physical power to get your way and make things happen. Become the driving force behind your plans. Romance is favored. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Call on those you know and trust for backup. Discuss your intentions, mull over the input you receive and adjust your plans. Change is inevitable, and structuring what you want to happen instead of letting nature take its course is in your best interest. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Take your frustrations out by doing something that will make you feel and look your best. A physical outlet will clear your head and offer insight into the possibilities. Refuse to let the changes others make push you in the wrong direction. ✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Evaluate your situations at home and work, then consider your options. Don't let your emotions interfere with your decision to change your lifestyle, location or direction. Consider your strengths and take the path that suits you. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Push yourself to participate in activities that require you to use your strengths to get ahead. A physical challenge will be more significant than anticipated. Prepare diligently to avoid falling behind. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Take the time to observe what others do and say before sharing your intentions. Emotional conversations will spin out of control, and anger will mount over discussions about money, contracts or unverified information. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Concentrate on what's important to you, and refrain from getting involved in other people's business. Go over financial, medical and contractual matters to ensure everything progresses according to plan. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Do something you enjoy. Entertaining, socializing and networking are worthwhile. You can set a precedent for what you want, but you can expect resistance if you don't offer incentives. Offering equality will help you gain support. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are insightful, concerned and proactive. You are dedicated and loyal.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

						6		
			1	8	6	3		
		5					4	1
5							6	
		2					7	
		8		5				2
7				1	8			
2	3					5		
8		4	6				3	

Difficulty: ★★★★ 10/6

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

3	5	1	7	2	6	4	9	8
4	8	7	9	3	5	2	6	1
9	6	2	8	1	4	5	3	7
7	2	3	4	6	1	9	8	5
5	4	9	3	8	2	1	7	6
8	1	6	5	7	9	3	4	2
6	3	5	2	9	8	7	1	4
1	7	4	6	5	3	8	2	9
2	9	8	1	4	7	6	5	3

Difficulty: ★★★ 10/5

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

JAPANESE SOUPS AND STEWS — Solution: 5 letters

N	S	S	A	V	O	R	Y	S	C	A	L	L	O	P
N	A	E	O	Y	S	T	E	R	I	S	Q	U	I	D
S	A	B	L	N	O	E	N	O	B	P	N	O	D	U
M	I	R	E	B	B	N	O	O	D	L	E	S	R	M
O	K	M	U	Y	A	D	H	G	A	R	L	I	C	P
O	A	P	O	T	A	T	O	E	S	U	C	M	S	L
R	Y	I	C	S	O	K	E	B	E	E	F	A	A	I
H	I	G	H	D	U	M	I	G	R	R	K	O	L	N
S	K	I	E	C	S	E	A	W	E	E	D	T	T	G
U	U	N	L	E	M	O	N	K	C	V	N	O	U	S
M	S	G	S	H	R	I	M	P	I	R	R	N	B	A
I	P	E	U	B	M	O	K	R	P	L	O	J	A	U
R	O	R	O	O	T	S	O	N	E	K	C	I	H	C
I	O	N	I	O	N	N	S	E	E	D	S	R	S	E
N	N	Y	S	T	O	C	K	S	P	R	O	U	T	S

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Beef, Bone, Chicken, Corn, Dashi, Dumplings, Garlic, Ginger, Honey, Kimchi, Kombu, Leek, Lemon, Mirin, Miso, Mushrooms, Nabeyaki, Narutomaki, Noodles, Nori, Oden, Onion, Oyster, Potatoes, Ramen, Recipe, Rice, Roots, Sake, Salt, Sauce, Savory, Scallop, Seaweed, Seeds, Shabu, Shrimp, Sip, Soba, Spoon, Sprouts, Squid, Stock, Sukiyaki, Tofu, Tonjiru, Udon, Vegetables

Yesterday's Answer: Ivvavik

The NEW **TELEWORD VINTAGE COLLECTION EDITION** #1 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

Phillies sweep Marlins to earn NL Division Series rematch with Braves

AP

Philadelphia Phillies' Bryson Stott reacts after hitting a grand slam against Miami Marlins pitcher Andrew Nardi during the sixth inning of Game 2 in an NL wild-card baseball playoff series, Wednesday, Oct. 4, 2023, in Philadelphia.

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Bryson Stott swung the bat, then stared almost in a daze as the ball plopped 412 feet away into the right-field seats. Stott swears he has almost no memory of the second grand slam in Philadelphia Phillies postseason history.

His light trot, then—slam!—the thud of his bat as the lumber spiked the turf, well, Stott doesn't remember that, either. This playoff highlight was a blur. He yelled something at his Phillies teammates, who had already turned the dugout into a jubilant mosh pit.

What did he say? Who knows? Stott couldn't hear himself or anyone else near him—the slam set off pandemonium inside another packed Phillies ballpark.

"I was running around the bases in kind of a blackout," Stott said. "I don't know, I have to go back and watch it."

Stott's grand slam punctuated a postseason sweep and Aaron Nola tossed seven shutout innings in a performance worthy of a playoff ace that led to a 7-1 win over the Miami Marlins in Game 2 of their NL Wild Card Series on Wednesday night.

"We know we're a really good team and we've just got to continue to do that," slugger Bryce Harper said inside a rowdy, boozy clubhouse.

After making quick work of the surprising Marlins, it's time for an anticipated rematch.

J.T. Realmuto also homered as the Phillies advanced to another best-of-five Division Series against Ronald Acuña Jr., Matt Olson and the Braves. Game 1 is Saturday in Atlanta. The Phillies did not announce a scheduled starter.

The NL champion Phillies finished third last season in the NL East at 87-75, a full 14 games behind the 101-win Braves, only to beat them in four games in the NLDS. The Braves were even better this season with a major league-best 104 wins and a sixth straight NL East crown—clinched last month in Philadelphia—while the Phillies again earned a wild card with 90 wins.

"It's going to be an electric series and we can't wait," Harper said.

More postseason thrills are surely ahead.

Stott provided one Wednesday when he turned on reliever Andrew Nardi's first-pitch fastball in the sixth and launched it into the right-field seats for a 7-0 lead. He slammed his bat as he ran down the first-base line, and the Stott Shot sent Phillies fans into a delirious frenzy with the countdown to a clinch officially on.

Nola followed Game 1 starter Zack Wheeler's excellent effort with one of his own, and had 46,000 fans on their feet chanting "Let's Go, Nola!" when he needed a lift.

"He went through a lot this year because he struggled at times and there were the home runs and the big innings and things like that, but he just kept grinding and he kept fighting, kept working," Phillies manager Rob Thomson said. "Finally, he found some stuff at the end of the year, and he's been lights out."

The one knock on Nola, eligible for free agency after the World Series, is his trouble with shutdown innings. After Realmuto went deep to make it 3-0 in the fourth, Nola ran into a jam in the fifth. He put runners on first and second with one out before he got Jesús Sánchez to ground into an inning-ending double play.

Nola picked—more than pitched—his way out of Miami's only other serious threat.

The Marlins briefly caught a break in the third when Jon Berti's deep drive into the left-center gap knocked off left fielder Cristian Pache's glove for a one-out double. Berti then inexplicably tried to steal third and was busted by Nola as the righty went into his delivery. Nola noticed Berti taking off and, instead of throwing a pitch, simply stepped toward third and threw him out.

"I feel like there was a little momentum shift," Nola said. "For a pitcher, it's definitely a plus to pick a guy off in a situation like that, especially when a guy that can run is on second base with less than two outs."

Those are the kind of mistakes a postseason novice like the Marlins make.

"I think the culture changed," manager Skip Schumaker said. "I believe that there's a new standard in that clubhouse now. Now it's up to them to protect that standard, honestly."

With fans again waving their red rally towels, many wearing Phillies overalls popularized by backup catcher Garrett Stubbs, and the team on the brink of a clinch, the Phillies had their way with Miami starter Braxton Garrett.

Philadelphia again had six 20-homer hitters in the lineup but—a night after failing to go deep in Game 1—again stitched together runs against Garrett.

Kyle Schwarber ripped an RBI double to right in the third that scored Pache for a 1-0 lead. Pache raced around the bases from first, his helmet still bouncing on the dirt as he slid headfirst into home. Trea Turner, the $300 million shortstop, smacked an RBI single that scored Schwarber for a 2-0 lead.

By then, the Game 2 victory seemed inevitable.

After all, there's a reason the Phillies call the postseason Red October: They just don't lose at Citizens Bank Park. At least, not often.

The Phillies, who won the 2008 World Series at home, moved to 24-11 in the postseason at the ballpark, the top postseason winning percentage for any team in any park (minimum 20 games).

Realmuto crushed his fourth career postseason homer off David Robertson in the fourth to make it 3-0.

"I think we've got a really good club, and I think we're built for series-type baseball," Thomson said.

DIAMONDBACKS 5, BREWERS 2

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Zac Gallen settled down after a shaky start and Arizona's bullpen stepped up at the very end, helping the Diamondbacks sweep their NL Wild Card Series against the Brewers.

Just two years after suffering through a 110-loss season, Arizona moved into the franchise's first NL Division Series since 2017. The Diamondbacks will take on the NL West champion Dodgers in the opener of their best-of-five series on Saturday in Los Angeles.

The NL Central champion Brewers have dropped nine of their last 10 playoff games, a stretch that started with their Game 7 home loss to the Dodgers in the 2018 NL Championship Series.

Ketel Marte put Arizona ahead for good with a two-run single during a four-run rally in the sixth inning as Milwaukee right-hander Freddy Peralta faded after a strong start.

Gallen allowed two runs in the first, and then sailed through the rest of his six innings.

The Brewers had runners on second and third after Christian Yelich's two-out double in the ninth, but Paul Sewald struck out William Contreras to end the series.

RANGERS 7, RAYS 1

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—Adolis García and Evan Carter homered, and the Rangers finished a two-game AL Wild Card Series sweep.

García and Carter connected against 16-game winner Zach Eflin, who was unable to save Tampa Bay's season. Nathan Eovaldi also delivered for the Rangers, pitching 6 2/3 innings of one-run ball.

Texas advanced to a Division Series at AL East champion Baltimore starting Saturday. The Rays' scoreless streak reached 33 innings, one shy of the postseason record held by the 1966-74 Los Angeles Dodgers, before Curtis Mead's RBI single in the seventh.

Texas won a postseason series for the first time since 2011, when the Rangers reached the World Series before losing to St. Louis.

After securing the AL's top wild card, Tampa Bay lost its seventh straight postseason game. In getting swept in consecutive Wild Card Series, the Rays scored two runs over four games while hitting .161.

TWINS 2, BLUE JAYS 0

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Carlos Correa contributed an RBI single and a quick-twitch tag off a pickoff throw from Sonny Gray, and the Twins swept the Blue Jays in their AL Wild Card Series.

The Twins advanced—for the first time in 21 years—to play the defending World Series champion Astros. Game 1 of the best-of-five AL Division Series is in Houston on Saturday.

It's familiar territory for Correa, who played for Houston for seven seasons before signing with Minnesota in free agency.

The Blue Jays, who lost their seventh straight game in the playoffs since the AL Championship Series in 2016, left nine runners on base after stranding nine men in Game 1. Matt Chapman had a liner go just foul before grounding into an inning-ending double play with the bases loaded in the sixth.

Gray struck out six in five innings in his first career win in the playoffs.

The Blue Jays had runners on second and third in the fifth when Gray picked off Vladimir Guerrero Jr. at second, ending the inning. Gray whipped around and threw to the shortstop Correa, who grabbed the ball and grazed Guerrero's chest with his glove a split-second before Guerrero's hand hit the base.

MLB committee on Athletics' move will meet this week

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Mark Attanasio, who chairs the Major League Baseball committee regarding the Oakland Athletics' move to Las Vegas, said Tuesday that the group met a couple of days ago and will meet again later this week.

Attanasio, the Milwaukee Brewers' controlling owner, declined additional comment on the committee's progress while speaking during a news conference Tuesday before his team's postseason opener against Arizona.

"The committee, we are literally in the middle of our process, which therefore, I can't comment," Attanasio said. "Even if I were to comment, we're still doing our work. In fact, we had a meeting a couple of days ago. We have another meeting scheduled this week, wo we're addressing it in a broad context and there's a lot to address."

The relocation committee also includes Philadelphia Phillies chief executive officer John Middleton and Kansas City Royals CEO John Sherman.

The committee will evaluate the team's application, define the new operating territory and television territory, then make a recommendation to Manfred and the eight-man executive council. The council formulates a recommendation to all 30 clubs, which must approve the move by at least three-quarters vote.

MLB Commissioner Rob Manfred hopes the vote will occur during in a mid-November owners meeting in Texas.

The A's said in April they planned to move to a ballpark to be constructed in Las Vegas and agreed the following month with Bally's and Gaming & Leisure Properties to build a stadium on the Tropicana hotel site along the Las Vegas Strip.

The Nevada Legislature approved $380 million in public financing in June in legislation signed by Gov. Joe Lombardo.

Oakland's lease at the Coliseum expires after the 2024 season. A new ballpark in Las Vegas is not likely to open until 2028 at the earliest. The team has not said where it intends to play until a new stadium opens.

New rest rules don't really bother NBA players

By BRIAN MAHONEY
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

With new policies and penalties, the NBA has made it clear that healthy players should be on the court.

No argument from the players, who insist they aren't interested in sitting.

Some don't like load management any more than the fans who wonder why some of the best athletes in the world so often need a night off. But they also want the league to understand that there are times—quite a few of them during Kawhi Leonard's lone season in Toronto—when they have to listen to their bodies or their doctors.

"I was coming from an injury and you have to know the details of the doctor," Leonard, now with the Los Angeles Clippers, said Monday. "But if the league is seeing or trying to mock what I did with the Raptors, they should stop because I was injured the whole year. But other than that, if I'm able to play, I'll play basketball. I'll work out every day in the summertime to play the game, not to sit and watch people play. No league policy is helping me to play more games."

Some of Leonard's absences in recent years are the type the NBA is looking to eliminate with its " player participation policy " that takes effect this season. He missed 22 games in 2018-19, the Raptors careful to avoid overuse after he returned from a thigh injury that limited him to nine games the previous season. The league believes those scheduled nights off, known as load management, have become too common—and potentially damaging if they drive away viewers.

AP
Los Angeles Clippers forward Kawhi Leonard poses for photos during the NBA basketball team's media day, Monday, Oct. 2, 2023, in Los Angeles.

"I think the league is trying to figure out ways to make our game better, to help grow the game, understanding that fan engagement is important for all of us," said New Orleans guard CJ McCollum, the president of the players' association. "As a fan of sports, when you go to a game, you want the stars to play. You're paying a premium on the ticket … or maybe it's the cable package or whatever you have, you want to see the best players play."

The policy prevents teams, without approval, from resting multiple star players (defined as anyone who was an All-NBA or All-Star selection in the prior three seasons) in the same game, or sitting healthy ones in nationally televised or in-season tournament games.

The league threatened to investigate certain absences, with penalties that would surpass $1 million if a team has three violations.

"Obviously the NBA is always trying to find a way to get the best players playing. And why? Well, because we want people to tune in to their TVs and watch," said Michael Malone, coach of the NBA champion Denver Nuggets. "And they're going to watch when the best players show up every night and play."

That has happened far too infrequently in recent years. Even as the league has reduced back-to-back games from teams' schedules and limited and improved their travel, some top players rarely come close to 82 games. Players bear the brunt of the criticism from fans, even though Commissioner Adam Silver, well before the new policy was introduced in September, has said it's often the teams deciding when they will be rested.

"I think the league's approach in trying to get players to player more, I think that's great. I'm trying to play as many games as I possibly can," Boston's Jaylen Brown said. "It don't always be the players. I know that's the narrative, that it's the players that decide not to play. I won't go into detail, but that's not always the case."

Another new policy is directed more toward them. The new collective bargaining agreement requires players, in most instances, to play in 65 regular-season games to be eligible for awards such as MVP or the All-NBA teams.

"I think there are guys across the league that may sit out because they don't want to play or they want to rest or whatever it may be. But I think playing a minimum of 65 games, I think that's smart for the league, for the fans, for everybody," Miami's Tyler Herro said. "This is a business at the end of the day. A lot of people come to watch us play. I wouldn't want to be a fan that came to see me play and I'm not playing because I don't want to."

Marcus Smart won the Defensive Player of the Year award last season in Boston and certainly wouldn't want to disqualify himself this season by missing too many games. But he knows he'll need to miss some, and like Leonard, won't be swayed by the league's new rule.

"I can care less what anybody says about that, because they're not out there throwing their body around like I am," said Smart, now in Memphis. "So I don't see how you can tell me when I should and shouldn't play. If I don't feel like I can play, then I'm not playing. But if I'm available and I can play, best believe I'm going."

Jrue Holiday lands in Boston, bringing 'electricity' to practice and championship goals

BOSTON (AP)—The Boston Celtics' typically straight-faced basketball boss Brad Stevens couldn't hide his smile after watching just one practice with Jrue Holiday on the team.

"We made a thousand mistakes. But you could also see, like, there's that thing that's there," Stevens said at an introductory news conference on Wednesday, three days after the Celtics traded for Holiday. "There's a togetherness. There's an excitement. There's a joy, a competitiveness.

"And I think he brings it as well as anybody around," Stevens said. "I just think that's contagious."

The Celtics acquired Holiday on Sunday from Portland, where he had been sent as part of the trade that moved Damian Lillard to Milwaukee. The deal came together on Sunday, the night before training camp opened, and Holiday sat out Tuesday's practice and watched.

A day later, with Celtics Hall of Famer Paul Pierce as a spectator, Holiday joined his new teammates at their practice facility and set a tone that the team hopes will result in a championship.

"There was just an electricity in the gym today," co-owner Steve Pagliuca said. "Paul Pierce turned to us and said he's never seen an NBA practice in his whole entire career, that they went that hard, that fast for that long."

Although they are tied with the Los Angeles (and Minneapolis) Lakers with an NBA-best 17 championships, it's been 15 years since the Celtics hung their last banner in TD Garden. They have reached the Eastern Conference finals five times in the last seven seasons—making it to Game 6 of the NBA Finals two years ago—but they seemed to be getting no closer to another title.

So in an offseason upheaval, Stevens traded point guard and defensive star Marcus Smart for Kristaps Porzingis, gaining an All-Star big man but giving up the player who was the emotional heart of the team.

In Holiday, they believe they've filled that gap. It cost them point guard Malcolm Brogdon, the NBA's reigning Sixth Man of the Year, and forward Robert Williams along with two first-round draft picks, but with Holiday joining All-Stars Jayson Tatum and Jaylen Brown, Boston joined Milwaukee as 19/5 favorites to win it all, according to FanDuel Sportsbook.

"We're adding everybody we can who will add character, commitment and extreme talent. We're also, unfortunately, letting some of those guys go," co-owner Wyc Grousbeck said. "We're doing absolutely everything we can. But if you're in Celtics ownership, that's what you do. Or you make way for somebody else."

Holiday started his career in Philadelphia, spent the next seven years in New Orleans and then moved to Milwaukee in 2020-21, joining with Giannis Antetokounmpo to win an NBA title his first season there. The next year, the Bucks lost to Boston in seven games in the Eastern Conference semifinals, and Holiday noticed something about the city and its fans.

"The fans are literally insane, and I'm proud to be a part of that," said Holiday, who grew up in Los Angeles as a Lakers fan. "I know a lot of my family's probably hurt, but I know this is a blue-collar town. They love people that work hard and they put their heart into it. And that's just the type of person that I am, is every time I step on to the court, I give them everything."

That was a hallmark of Smart's career in Boston, too. The three-time member of the all-defensive team and 2022 Defensive Player of the Year was beloved in Boston—more for his effort than as an offensive threat who averaged 11.5 points and 6.3 assists last season.

Holiday averaged 19.3 points, 7.4 assists and 5.1 rebounds last year, while matching Smart's 1.5 steals. Grousbeck made sure to note that, in addition to his two All-Star selections and his five appearances on the all-defensive team, Holiday is a three-time winner of the NBA's teammate of the year award.

He is also under contract for two more seasons, but Stevens said they will begin talking about an extension as soon as they are allowed. The deal put Boston over the salary cap's new "second apron" that comes with increased penalties for big-spending teams.

"We haven't blinked at all," said Grousbeck, who was part of the ownership committee that worked on the restrictions. "I'm aware of all that. We're going to be over the second apron and paying those penalties. and that's the way life is.

"It's designed so that we can have more competition. We're fine with competition," he said, "as long as we win."

Texans' Stroud off to sizzling start as several other rookie QBs struggle

By JOSH DUBOW
AP PRO FOOTBALL WRITER

Rookie quarterbacks are getting their chances early this season.

One is taking advantage of the opportunity in extremely impressive fashion.

After all three first-round quarterbacks started the opener, two more were forced into action because of injuries this week, with Aidan O'Connell getting the nod for the Raiders and Dorian Thompson-Robinson for the Browns.

This marked just the third season since the 1970 merger when at least five rookie quarterbacks started in the same week this early in the season, with it also happening in 2012 and 2021.

While Bryce Young, Anthony Richardson, O'Connell and Thompson-Robinson all ended up on the losing side, No. 2 overall draft pick C.J. Stroud extended the solid start to his career.

Stroud threw for 306 yards and two TDs to lead Houston to its second straight win, 30-6 over Pittsburgh. Stroud's 1,212 yards are the second-most ever for a player in his first four games — trailing only Cam Newton's 1,386 in 2011 for Carolina — but it's his ability to protect the ball that might be most impressive.

Stroud joined Brock Purdy and Joshua Dobbs as the only quarterbacks this season to start all four games and not throw an interception.

Stroud is now part of a far more elite group, joining Aaron Rodgers (2020), Patrick Mahomes (2018 and '19), Drew Brees (2018), Tom Brady (2015 and '17) and Peyton Manning (2013) as the only players to throw for at least 1,200 yards with no interceptions in the first four games of the season.

It hasn't been as easy for the four other rookie quarterbacks with Young ranking in the bottom five in passer rating and yards per attempt and O'Connell and Thompson-Robinson looking overmatched in their first starts.

Richardson has been better, with three touchdown passes and four TD runs in three games.

AP

Houston Texans quarterback C.J. Stroud (7) throws against the Pittsburgh Steelers during the first half of an NFL football game Sunday, Oct. 1, 2023, in Houston.

LOPSIDED WINS

The Buffalo Bills have rebounded from a Week 1 loss in impressive fashion.

The Bills beat previously undefeated Miami 48-20 on Sunday for their third straight win by at least 28 points. That is tied for the longest streak of wins by that many points in the Super Bowl era. The only team in NFL history with more was the 1942 Chicago Bears—a mark Buffalo will try to tie in London on Sunday against Jacksonville.

The Dallas Cowboys also have put together some blowout wins, with their 38-3 victory at New England on Sunday the most lopsided loss ever for Patriots coach Bill Belichick. The Cowboys have won three games by at least 20 points so far this season, with one slip-up in a Week 3 loss at Arizona.

Before this season, only 15 teams since the merger had three wins by at least 20 points in the first four games. Thirteen of those teams made the playoffs and six made the Super Bowl, with the 1996 Green Bay Packers and 1999 St. Louis Rams winning it all.

SACK DANCE

It was a notable weekend for pass rushers, led by Khalil Mack of the Chargers and the entire Seattle defense.

Mack had six sacks on Sunday against the Raiders, one shy of Derrick Thomas' NFL single-game record. The only other players with six in a game since sacks became an official individual statistic in 1982 are Thomas, Adrian Clayborn, Fred Dean and Osi Umenyiora.

Mack also had five sacks in a game in 2015 for the Raiders against Denver, joining Thomas as the only players with two games with at least five sacks.

The Seahawks tied a franchise record with 11 sacks on Monday night against the Giants with a balanced unit. Bobby Wagner, Jordyn Brooks, Devon Witherspoon and Uchenna Nwosu all had two sacks in the game.

ELEVEN

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in a tug of war with the ball.

But Eleven Tiger's defense went on to shut down Latte, while Akira Kadokura made it 4-1. Eleven Tiger scored their fifth goal made by Tanapon Unsa in the 61st minute. Only until the very last minute did Latte's Nolan Ngewakl score their second goal.

In their game against MP United, R.J. Narvaez and Unsa scored a goal each while MP United's Jireh Yobech notched a goal in the 42nd minute. MP United could not score after that and lost by just one goal.

Over in MSL 2, MP United defeated Shirley's Football Club, 5-1, last Sunday.

Shirley's Oliver Gragasin drew first blood for a 1-0 lead, but MP United's James Salalila quickly retaliated and tied it up just a few seconds later.

From there, it was all downhill for Shirley's as MPU's Gaige Porras scored two goals, while Athan Taisague and Maui Johnson scored a goal each. Shirley's could not add to their goals after that and lost the first game of the season.

In other results of MSL 2, Matansa FC and WNT Development Team ended in a 3-3 draw; Old B Bank drew a 2-2 match with Shirley's FC 1; and Bangladesh FC blanked Hana FC, 2-0.

In other results of MSL 1, MP United came out unscathed, 5-0, against NMI U15 NT; and Kanoa FC edged Paire FC, 6-2.

GOLF

From page 24

quality practice sessions and helping each other with their weaknesses.

"This will allow us to maximize our potential to perform the best way we can when it comes to game day. The dedication and chemistry in this team are outstanding and can't elaborate enough on the camaraderie amongst the selected individuals," said the 30-year-old police officer.

Santos, who topped the tryouts with a score of 220, is making his second consecutive stint as part of the national golf team.

"For me, it is such a great opportunity to have made the team again but now on a bigger stage. I've worked hard to get my golf game to where it is right now and it seems to be at its best. My goal for the Games is to work with the team to bring back a medal and hopefully it's gold. I would like to thank my family for always being there when times were hard and always supporting me since Day 1 when I got into this sport," said the 31-year-old finance manager of the Marianas Alliance of Non-Governmental Organizations, Inc.

Camacho, the 62-year-old golf pro at Laolao Bay Golf & Resort, said the team's goal heading into the Pacific Games is to effectively mesh together.

"Our goal is to work and play as a team like it should be because if we can't work as one then there is no team. We need to start building our chemistry as a team and build a strong relationship among ourselves so that everyone is equal. I'm proud to be standing alongside these guys who I can call teammates," said Camacho who came away with a 223 in the qualifiers.

His cousin, Sasomoto, meanwhile, is ecstatic to finally make the national golf team after firing a 229 in the tryouts.

"Last year I tried to make the team for the Mini Games here on Saipan, but failed to do so and that was emotionally very difficult. I've been to a few of these Games in the past and there is no better feeling than to represent your island. First of I want to congratulate all the other players who made the team and I'm looking forward to our journey as we represent the CNMI in the Pacific Games. I'm honored, blessed, and fortunate to have made the team and looking forward to the trip to the Solomon Islands alongside my teammates!" said the 60-year-old son of Jose A. Sasamoto, known as the father of golf on Saipan.

Jones, who clubbed a 246 to make the team, first and foremost thanked God for finally giving him a chance to represent the CNMI in golf.

"My main goal right now is to put in more time and commitment to this sport. I need to work with the rest of the team members to figure out what I can improve on as they have more experience competing in this sport at that level. When we head to the Games, I will give my best to represent the CNMI. I've represented the CNMI in other sports, but this is going to be my toughest challenge yet as it really comes down to your own performance. I also want to give thanks to my wife and kids for supporting me throughout the year in my efforts to do better in this game," said the 37-year-old. Kagman High School principal and former CNMI national baseball team mainstay.

Peter, who served as the chairman of the 2022 Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games Organizing Committee, said it's always an honor to represent the CNMI in any sporting event after shooting a 247 in the qualifiers.

"The ultimate goal is to strive for a medal, but along the way we form a bond with the team and create lasting friendships with other participating countries throughout the Games, which is most important," he said.

The rose among the thorns, Jin, said she's looking forward to again represent the CNMI in the quadrennial event in the Solomon Islands.

"I'm really honored to represent Team NMI once again. I love the team I'm a part of, great players and great people. As of now, I'm just trying my best to average on the 70s before the Games. My goal in the Games is just to perform my best… I'm just grateful that they gave me a chance to be a part of the team," said the 16-year-old Marianas High School student, who shot a 241 in the tryouts.

Taitano, for his part, said he's "humbled and honored for the opportunity" to be a part of the CNMI National Golf Team.

"Most especially being able to represent the CNMI alongside these fine athletes who have the love and passion for the game of golf. We have a really strong team put together so I'm pretty confident that we are able to perform well, give it our best, and go for great outcome," he said after coming up with a 250 in the tryouts, which took the two lowest scores of the five tryouts including the "walking tournament" in the final round that outlawed the use of golf carts last Sept. 30.

And speaking of the "walking tournament," Franco took the No. 1 spot in the tryout after carding a 72 (37-35), followed by Sasamoto (38-35) and Jones' 73 (35-38), Camacho's 75 (37-38), Peter's 77 (39-38), Jin's 78 (40-38), and Taitano's 90 (45-45)

As coach, Taitano thanked Laolao Bay Golf & Resort, its management, and staff for "giving us the opportunity to utilize their premier golf course and facilities and hosting the tryouts and practice sessions. We are grateful for their continuous support for this team and our

MARILYN

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division in the 2023 World Master IBJJF Championship in Las Vegas, Nevada, which was held from Aug. 31 to Sept. 2.

Up next for Cruz is the ADCC North American Trials on the East Coast, on Oct. 14 and 15. It is a tournament to qualify for the ADCC championships in 2024 (55-kg weight class, mixed levels).

Then at the end of the year on Dec. 9, she is competing in the No-Gi World Championships to fight for the IBJJF World title. "All these comps bring in high level competitors from around the world. I am excited to get in there and challenge myself," said Cruz.

She then thanked everyone back home who watches and supports her. "I'm hoping that I can spread motivation to the youth and especially those in Saipan who have dreams to do something with all their heart," she said.

"Huge thank you to my sponsors back home who support local athletes! They make it possible for me to compete and get my name noticed in a sport with thousands of competitors. Lone Fox Bistro & Lounge, Guam Nutrition and Fitness Coach and Project Row!" she added.

At age 24, Cruz started jiu-jitsu and currently trains under the tutelage of Baret Yoshida from Team Baret Submissions at The Training Center, San Diego. She's been training with the same team for six years.

Cruz graduated high school in 2010 and college at the Northern Marianas College in 2013. She left for San Diego, California in 2015 and still resides there today.

MRA president: More things to look forward to next season

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

With the awards banquet concluding the 2023 Monster Energy Points Race Series season last Saturday at the Saipan World Resort, Marianas Racing Association president Charles Cepeda said there's again a lot to look forward to for next season.

The usual seven-race season begins in January, with a race on the last Sunday of each month—and sometimes a month is skipped for the Smokin' Wheels race in Guam or for other events.

Even before the start of the next season, MRA is already gearing up the track with new bells and whistles before the arrival of Guam racers for the November 2023 TurkeyCross.

LEIGH GASES

Marianas Racing Association board members, from left, president Charles Cepeda, vice president Justis "Cuki" Alvarez, treasurer Dave Berger, secretary Eleanor Cepeda, member Patrick Togawa, member Bridgette Camacho, member Ellory Cruz, and member Dave Celis pose for a photo during the awards banquet last Saturday at the Saipan World Resort.

One such addition is two finish-line towers for scorekeepers, along with new grids in the starting-line for all 20 slots.

Along with those, there are two new lanes that will make the track much longer, and a kid's/beginner's track. Cepeda said they are trying to get it done by this Sunday. He also hopes that in the future, they acquire more land to set up more tracks to entice more racers to return and capture the interest of new ones.

As for how the 2023 season went, Cepeda said that there were lots of bikers that left the club, but hopes that for the coming season, more racers will come in.

With the exit of some members being the downside of the 2023 season, Cepeda said the upside was MRA's participation in the Smokin' Wheels Guam competition, and the reconfiguration and addition and expansion of the tracks.

For the racers that did compete in the 2023 season, he said, they "were very competitive." With that competitiveness, Cepeda said he had to remind them a few times to enjoy and have fun with the sport.

Cepeda added as the competitiveness went up, so did the rider's skills. "The skill level and performance has been great. I've seen tremendous improvements all across, especially those who stay riding—hence why we needed to expand the track and added more challenging jumps—but still try to keep it fun."

He then thanked the Office of the Governor and Lt. Governor, Saipan Mayor's Office, Department of Public Works, Department of Corrections, Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, Monster Energy, and Joeten Motors.

He also gave the biggest thanks to the MRA members and its board members.

KagES, SVES 2, SIS, WSR unbeaten in soccer

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Kagman Elementary School, San Vicente Elementary School 2, William S. Reyes Elementary School, and Saipan International School are the Top 3 teams in their respective groups with unbeaten records in the NMIFA-PSS Interscholastic Soccer League 2023-2024.

KagES Blue Marlins of Group C silenced Eucon International School, 7-0, in their game on Monday, for a 3-1-0 record.

Bursting onto the scene early on was Benaiah Murphy who nipped the net just a minute in. The ball remained in the Blue Marlins' possession majority of the time and they took advantage of it as in the fifth minute, Ashton Ojeda made it a 2-0 game.

Murphy went on to complete a hat-trick by the 11th minute and was immediately followed by their fifth goal in the 17th minute by Roque Naputi.

The first half came and went without a peep from Eucon and the Blue Marlins took it all the way home with two more goals by way of Chance Reyes and Ojeda.

Also on Monday, SIS Geckos of Group D won a lopsided, 8-1 win over Mount Carmel School Knights 2, for a 4-0 record.

Four goals whizzed by for the Geckos in the first half thanks to the efforts of Ezra West, Kaylen Taflinger, Carver Gross, and Windsor Gross.

The Knights' Thomas Flores managed to squeeze in a goal in the fifth minute but SIS led, 4-1 heading into the second half. The Knights went on to be silenced by SIS' sturdy defense and continued their onslaught offensively. Before the game ended, four more goals were made by the Geckos, 8-1.

Last Friday, SVES Canaries 2 of Group B, defeated KagES 2, 5-2, for a 4-0 record.

The Canaries scored all five of their goals even before the Blue Marlins scored their two goals. Izaiah Haro and Zayne Reyes scored two goals each, while Leiriana Dela Cruz shot one.

The goals made too late by the Blue Marlins came from the cleats of Aiden Rangamar.

Also last Friday, WSR Kingfishers of Group A blanked Koblerville Elementary School 2, 7-0, for a 4-0 record.

The Kingfishers swooped in four quick goals in the first half contributed by Salman Kamal and Imran Kamal. Salman completed the hat-trick in the second half for a 5-0 lead, and with two more goals by Princess Gariguez and Darshwana Chhetri, the Canaries took an uncontested, 7-0 win.

In other results on Monday, SVES slipped past Saipan Community School, 6-4; and WSR 2 ended in a 1-1 draw with Brilliant Star School;

In other results last Friday, WSR 2 put up one more against MCS 2, 4-3; Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School and BSS' match ended in a 4-4 draw; MCS held on to win against GTC 2, 3-2; and KobES overpowered Garapan Elementary School 2, 8-2.

Sinapalo Elementary School is gracing the NMISTC grounds today and tomorrow. They are playing a total of four games.

The playoffs are scheduled for Oct. 9 and Oct. 11 with the finals on Oct. 16.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan International School's Kaylen Taflinger, center, goes after the ball as she's flanked by Mount Carmel School defenders during their game in the NMIFA-PSS Interscholastic Soccer League 2023-2024 at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville on Monday.

Pacific Amusement, SEDA donate electronic dart equipment to Hopwood

CHRYSTAL MARINO

Hopwood Middle School's Dart Club members join their principal Victorino Borja and teachers and advisors while posing with Saipan Electronic Dart Association and Pacific Amusement's Rowena Cook and Ivan Sales after a turnover ceremony last Friday at the Hopwood Middle School in Chalan Piao.

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
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CORRESPONDENT

Pacific Amusement Inc. donated an estimated $1,000 worth of electronic dart equipment to Hopwood Middle School last Friday.

Aside from electronic darts, Pacific Amusement, which runs the Saipan Electronic Dart Association, also donated two electronic dart boards, extendable stands, and tips.

HMS principal Victorino Borja thanked Pacific Amusement and SEDA for donating the electronic dart equipment to the Chalan Piao school.

"This is the first time in history that [the Public School System] is actually going to have a dart league and we're starting it here in Hopwood. And we're thinking if it goes well, were going to expand it and move it to other middle schools."

Borja also told students who are part of HMS' newly established Dart Club that involvement in the dart program would have the same requirements as other sports-related programs as they need to keep their grades up in order to participate.

In an interview with HMS classroom teacher and Dart Club adviser Victor Cabrera, he explained that they just started their club this year and automatically had 50 students sign up.

"We were trying to find out where we're going to get equipment and all of that so that's why we really want to send a big thank you to SEDA. The Saipan Electronic Dart Association has really stepped up in helping us with our kids and donating all these equipment."

Cabrera added that "the teachers actually have a dart team and we play in the government league. Our principal, vice principal, and all the teachers are all part of the team and we're dressed up today in our uniforms…We figured 'hey we're having so much fun doing this as adults, why don't we bring this for our kids'… you know start something off. So, we did and when we mentioned it to the Saipan Electronic Darts Association… They were so happy and they did not waste any time and jumped on it immediately and let us know they want to donate and help..."

Pacific Amusement and SEDA's Rowena Cook and Ivan Sales spoke briefly after the ceremony.

"Pacific Amusement really wants to help the community especially the children," said Sales, while acknowledging Cook's help in facilitating the donation to Hopwood.

Cabrera shared that the plan for their dart program was to build a team where students would play competitively against other schools.

"Because SEDA is an expert on tournaments and leagues we're also asking them for their professional expertise in the matter and helping us set up divisions for our students as well. We wanted it to be as professional as it is in the states were youth leagues in the U.S. also have divisions."

Aside from inter-school competitions, Cabrera said their goal is to eventually invitate Guam schools to come to Saipan and have a friendly tournament and "let the kids express themselves in something other than the usual sports they're used to."

Phillies sweep Marlins to earn NL Division Series rematch with Braves.

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Golf team eyes gold in Pacific Games

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, CNMI national golfers Kaegel Taitano, Ben Jones Jr., Franco Santos, Joe Sasamoto, Zhi Min Jin, and Joe "Kamikaze" Camacho. Not in photo is Marco Peter.

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

No less than taking home the gold medal is the CNMI National Golf Team's goal in this coming 2023 Pacific Games in Honiara, Solomon Islands.

Making up the team, which was determined following five tryouts, are Franco Santos, Joe "Kamikaze" Camacho, Joe Sasamoto, Ben Jones Jr., Marco Peter, Kaegel Taitano (alternate), and Pacific Mini Games reigning women's gold medalist Zhi Min Jin.

Taitano, who's been designated the team's coach, said their goal as a team is to bring home the gold medal.

He said the national golf team plans to achieve this by conducting

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Marilyn Cruz golden in Pan IBJJF No-Gi Championship

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

NMI daughter Marilyn Cruz is once again golden in the sport of Brazilian Jiu-Jistu, this time in the Pan IBJJF No-Gi Championship 2023 in Fort Worth, Texas, which was held from Sept. 29 to Oct. 1.

Cruz, a brown belt, won not one but two gold medals. One was in the light-featherweight division and the other in the open-class division.

She defeated Sarah Margaret Clark via a triangle choke in less than a minute in the light-featherweight division.

In the mixed-weight open division, Cruz took down two competitors via points scored. Second place in that division went to Kelsey Lynn Harrell; and tied for third place were Jasmin Julia Medrano and Clark.

The 30-year-old Cruz said she competed in the open division to get more matches in. The open division was open to all competitors who placed in their respective divisions, which meant that Cruz matched up against medalists in other weight classes at the brown belt level.

This championship is second to the World Championships for Jiu-Jitsu competitions. No-Gi is essentially grappling without cloth to grip like in Judo or Gi Jiu-Jitsu.

She recently won gold in her

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NMI's Marilyn Cruz, center, won two gold medals in the Pan IBJJF No-Gi Championship 2023 in Fort Worth, Texas, which was held from Sept. 29 to Oct. 1.

Eleven Tiger, MP United bag debut wins in MSL 1, 2

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Eleven Tiger and MP United are off to a roaring start as they both bagged wins in the Marianas Soccer League 2 Fall 2023 and MSL 1 at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Eleven Tiger in MSL 1 claimed two wins—a 5-2 victory over Latte FC last Thursday and a 2-1 win over MP United last Sunday.

Their game face was on as Eleven Tiger barely gave Latte FC possession later in the match. Sunjoon Tenorio made it 1-0 in the 7th minute, but Latte's Jerome Mettao equalized the match in the 14th minute.

Eleven Tiger then ambushed Latte with two back-to-back goals before the end of the first half, for a 3-1 lead. Silence then reigned as both teams stalked through the pitch—

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NMIFA

Eleven Tiger's Tanapon Unsa attempts a goal during their game against Latte FC in the Marianas Soccer League 1 Fall 2023 match at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.